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Ansaldo Breda wins a 106 million euro contract to supply SIRIO trams to Turkey in a consortium with Alarko

Ansaldo Breda has won a 106 million euro contract, in a consortium with Alarko, to supply SIRIO trams to the Turkish city of Samsun. Ansaldo Breda's share of the order is worth 36 million euro.

The project is part of a wider programme to update the city's infrastructure, and will involve the construction of a modern light rail system above ground, with a length of over 17 km, 22 stops and a fleet of 16 vehicles.

The version of the SIRIO tram that will circulate on the streets of Samsun, the most important port on the Black Sea, will be bidirectional, with a driver's cab at each end. The air-conditioned trams will be 2.65 m wide and around 32 m long, and will be able to carry 270 passengers.

The new contract brings the number of SIRIO trams being built for various Italian and European cities to 315, and confirms the high technological quality of the Ansaldo Breda product. For example, SIRIO trams carried spectators and visitors between the main competition venues during the 2004 Athens Olympics, and they are also in use in Milan's modern transport system.

Ansaldo Breda has operated for many years in Turkey, where it built the vehicles for the Ankara metro. At present, it is also supplying the vehicles for the light surface metro in the city of Kayseri. Turkey is implementing a major programme to modernise and extend its public transport systems: a high-speed rail system is at the advanced stage, while heavy and light metro systems are being built in many large and medium-sized cities.