



SHELL MEXPHALTE C

Shell adds some sparkle to Bordeaux's tramway system

CASE STUDY: BORDEAUX TRAMWAY

A special asphalt mixture of aggregates, recycled glass and Shell's binder, Shell Mexphalte C, is having a sparkling effect on the road around Bordeaux's tramway line in South West France.

The regional capital of Aquitaine in South West France, Bordeaux, is served by three lines of tramway carrying over 1 10,000 passengers every day. The original design created over 21km which has since extended to over 27km of tramway.

Bordeaux's tramway really stands out thanks to Shell's Mexphalte C

Critical Success Factors: ■ Close customer relationship
■ Product properties
■ Proven track record

Application: Asphalt mixed with aggregates and recycled glass

Volume: 500 tonnes of Shell Mexphalte C

Product family: Shell Mexphalte C

Client: Tram et Bus de la CUB

Contractor: Screg South West



Endurable, adorable and affordable

The architects in charge of the project set a challenging specification for the asphalt surface surrounding the tramlines.

The main areas were safety, comfort, appearance and importantly the mix needed to provide excellent performance at traffic crossings.

The special asphalt used on the surrounding roadway around the tramlines has unique photometric properties. Its surface sparkles when it is exposed to sunlight, artificial light or light from traffic. Shell Mexphalte C, Shell Bitumen's pigmentable binder, played an important role at the design stage to ensure the effectiveness of this special characteristic.

"Scintiflex, was usually used on roads along France's South West coast. The Bordeaux tramway represented Scintiflex's first application on a tramway and it was also the first time that Shell Mexphalte C was used in France for this type of application."

**Cedric Leroux,
Shell France's Bitumen Technical Department**

A partnership approach

Scintiflex, the product that offers the unique photometric properties, is produced by Scred South West, one of Shell's clients.

Shell Bitumen's Technical department provided technical support to Scred South West's personnel that enabled Scintiflex, based on Shell Mexphalte C, to be selected from a number of other options for this project.

In order to highlight Scintiflex greenish-grey colour, and its sparkling effect, it was proposed to the architects that Shell Mexphalte C, a fairly transparent binder when used with any pigment, was the most appropriate binder for the job.

Cedric added: "Safety was an important criterion for choosing Scintiflex as it's easily seen by motorists, cyclists and pedestrians. It would attract their attention and signal to them that they were on a road which also catered for trams."

For further information

please contact your Shell Bitumen representative or visit;

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