

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

April 2nd, 2007
Eastern European High-Speed
Rail World speed record on Sateba rail sleepers

574.8 km/h



Testimony of Christian Gain



Christian Gain
MD Sateba France

1. Mr. Gain, could you briefly remind us of the role that Sateba sleepers played in establishing the railway speed record in 2007?

The rail speed record was achieved on a track with concrete sleepers manufactured at SATEBA's sites in Chalon-sur-Saône (71) and Charmes (88).

2. What were your feelings as a witness to this historic event 17 years ago?

“ I had the privilege of witnessing this record by being positioned on the structure spanning the track where the record was set. That day marked my most unforgettable professional experience. Seeing that TGV pass under the bridge at a speed of 150 meters per second, surrounded by a cloud of dust and a terrifying noise, was a magical moment. Watching the footage of this achievement stirred a sense of national pride within me. French rail was reaching the top of the world. Seventeen years later, I still feel the emotion.

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3. What are the main current challenges that Sateba is facing in the sector?

SATEBA's business is the manufacturing of concrete sleepers. We must continue to support our clients, the foremost being SNCF Réseau. Our main challenge is to offer high-performance products that are also increasingly environmentally friendly.

4. How do you see the future of the railway industry, and what role does Sateba intend to play in this evolution?

At SATEBA, we are passionate about the railway industry. Everyone knows that in France, trains are the most environmentally friendly mode of transportation. SATEBA is recognized as a major player in its field. We are proud of this recognition, and we fully intend to contribute, at our level, to the development of this industry.

5. To conclude, what messages would you like to address to your partners, clients, and the entire railway industry on the occasion of this commemoration?

We first and foremost thank SNCF Réseau for trusting us. Without the support of our main client, the journey ends. We also thank the railway networks and track laying companies that use our products every day. Concrete sleepers are our life and specialty, and you can rely on SATEBA to support you with competitive technical products that are increasingly environmentally friendly.