



COMITÉ FRANÇAIS DE MÉCANIQUE  
DES SOLS ET DE GÉOTECHNIQUE



ACADEMIE  
DES SCIENCES  
INSTITUT DE FRANCE



## Charles-Augustin COULOMB - A geotechnical tribute

### Paris, september 25 & 26, 2023



What to remember from 10 years of Grand Paris Express ?

Thierry Huyghues-Beaufond, Hervé Le Bissonnais,  
Missom Ouedraogo



Shaping a World of Trust





# The Grand Paris Express



# Summary

- Project progress
- A major project to drive environmental progress
- The first feedback from construction sites expériences



# Grand Paris Express: responding to key issues

International competition  
between cities

Housing shortage

Territorial and social  
imbalance

Pollution

Congested transport infrastructures



# A project unprecedented in scope

Grand  
Paris  
express

In figures

**68 stations**

and 6 technical centres

**100% accessible**

for people with reduced mobility

**90%**

of network underground

**100% automatic**

Guarantee of regular service,  
stability, comfort and safety

**Close to 3 million**

passengers per day

**200 KM of lines**

added to the existing 200 km in  
Île-de-France (metro and RER)

**1 train**

every 2 to 3 minutes

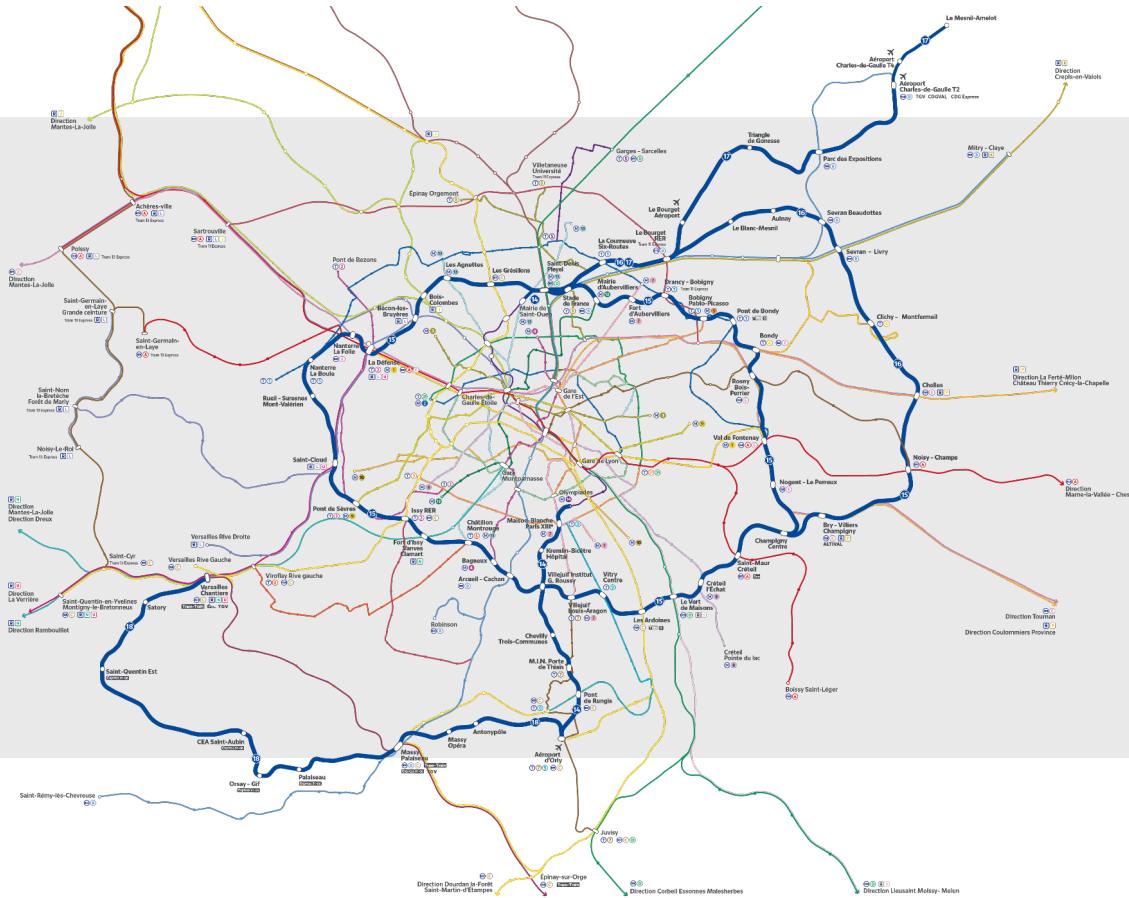
Travelling at a speed between  
**55 and 65 km/h**

on average

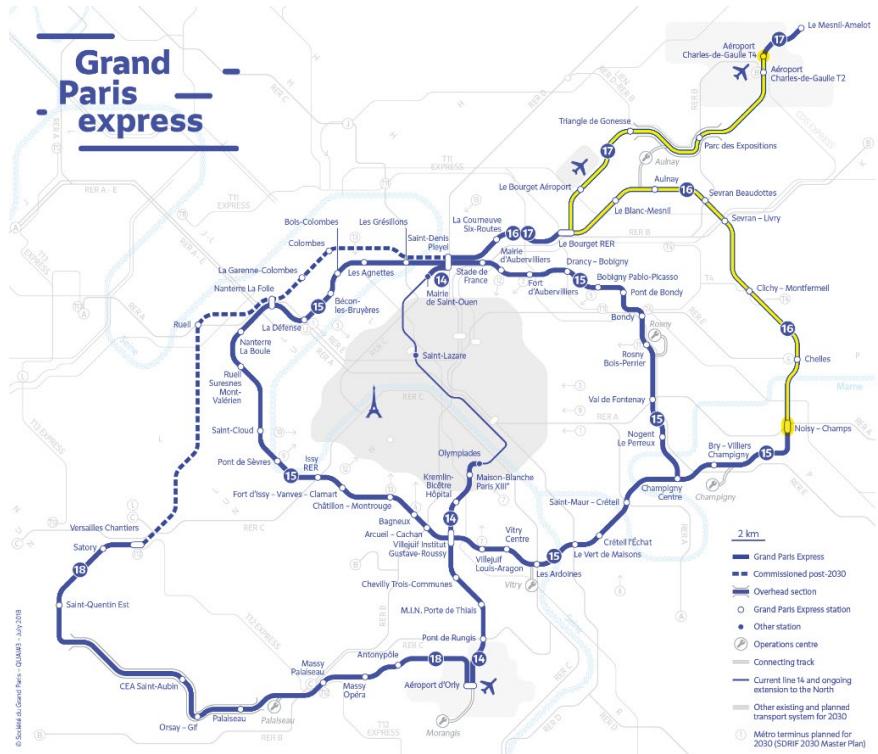
# 80 % des gares interconnectées

au réseau de transport

Réseaux  
de transport  
projeté à 2030  
(Sdrif)



# A revolution for residential and economic mobility



AÉROPORT  
CHARLES-DE-  
GAULLE T2

NOISY  
CHAMPS

Today

1 h 27

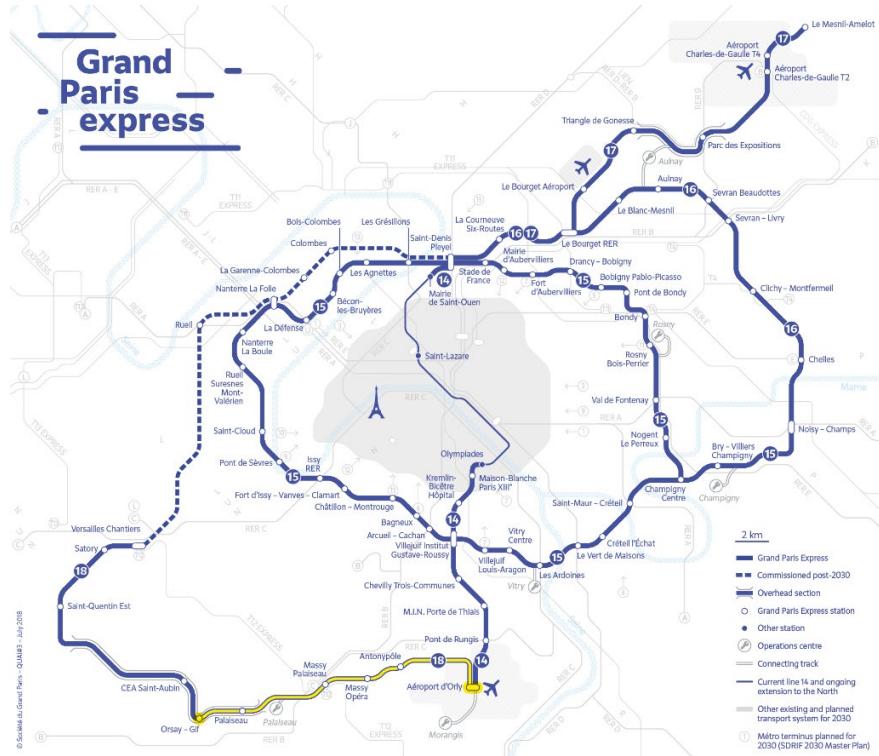
Tomorrow

31 min



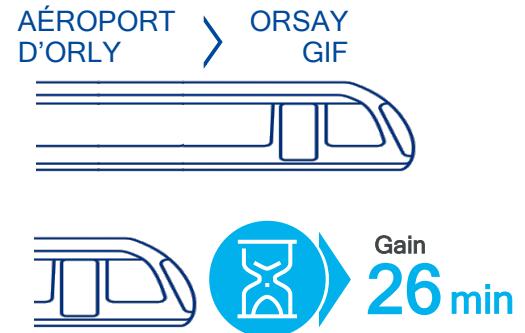
Gain  
56 min

# A revolution for residential and economic mobility



Today  
**41 min**

Tomorrow  
**15 min**



# On board the future metro



Automated  
trains

Fully accessible

Internet access

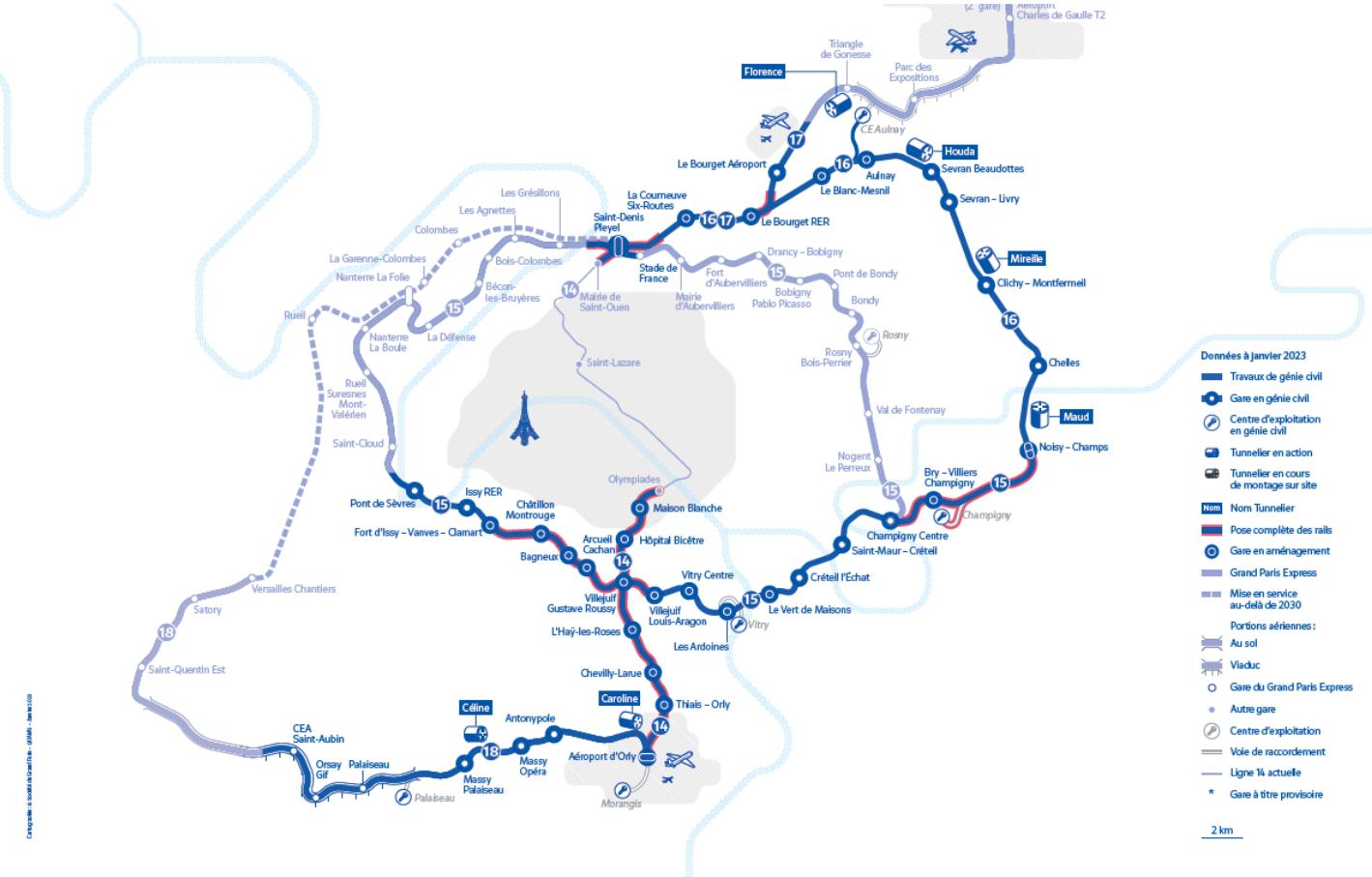
5G and Wi-fi

Secured  
cars and  
passenger areas

# Project progress



# Work has started



# Work has started



**100 km dug**

**46 km  
of double-track railways completed**

*In July 2023*

# Work has started



**15,000 to 20,000 jobs**

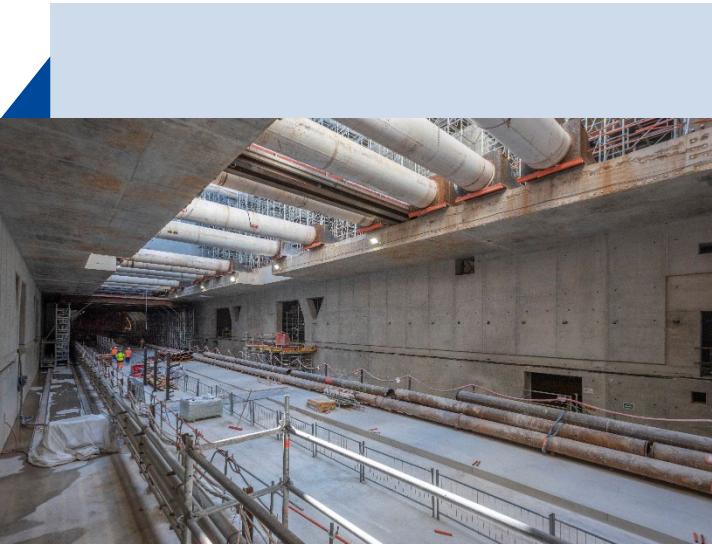
Per year needed to build the Grand Paris Express

Over

**7,769 employees**

mobilised in civil engineering

# Work has started



**5,443 companies**  
working on the construction sites

Including  
**4,473 SMEs**

# An unprecedented underground adventure

**24** tunnel boring machines (TBMs)

christened in January 2023



Breakthrough of the Mireille TBM in Clichy-Montfermeil



Lowering of the  
Caroline TBM's  
cutter head in Massy



Breakthrough of the  
Marina TBM in  
Créteil l'Echat

# Line 15



Villejuif Institut-Gustave Roussy station



Chatillon-Montrouge station



Saint-Maur-Créteil station

# Line 16



Le Blanc-Mesnil station



Saint-Denis Pleyel station



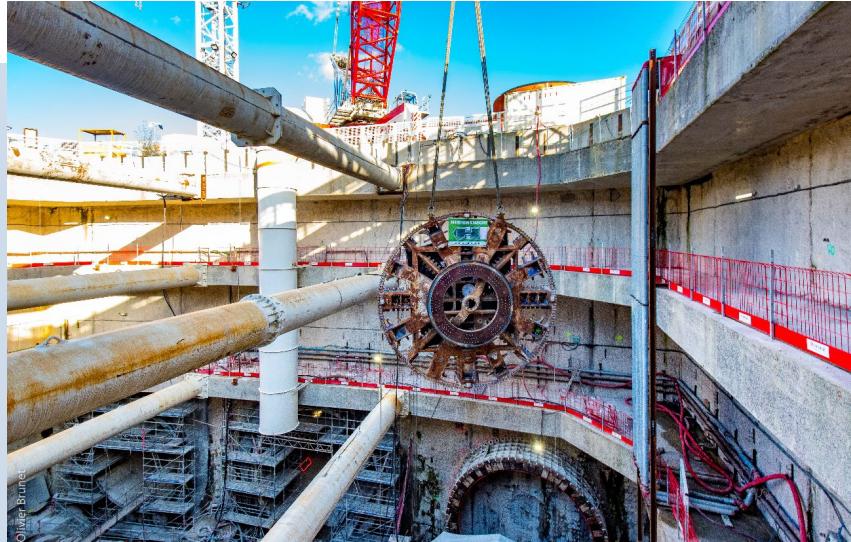
Aulnay station

# Line 17



© Olivier Bruneau

La Courneuve Six-Routes station



Le Bourget RER station

# Line 18



Antonypole station



Viaduct Palaiseau

# A major project to drive environmental progress



# A project to advance the ecological and energy transition

**-14 million**  
of CO<sub>2</sub>  
equivalent tonnes by 2050



**36%** thanks to reduced car use

**64%** by renovating neighbourhoods around  
stations

CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction 3 to 5 time greater than the emissions generated by the Grand Paris Express project

# Massively reduce the carbon footprint of tunnels

**-25% CO2 emissions on construction sites**

i.e. 1.1 million teq CO2 saved



The replacement of conventional concrete segments with Ultra Low Carbon (UBC) segments based on cement-free alkali-activated slag has a significant impact on the environmental impact of the site, with a reduction of around 70% in carbon emissions. CO2 compared to traditional concrete and 50% compared to low carbon concrete, i.e. respectively 90 kg CO2/m3 for UBC concrete, 170 fg CO2/m3 for very low carbon concrete and 330 kg CO2/m3 for concrete traditional.

The first feedback from  
construction sites  
experiences; Concret,  
Supports,...



# Line 16 - Lot 1 St Denis Pleyel/Aulnay

## Tunnel in fibers segments



REX:

- Conclusive experience because 80% of the 12km of tunnel are 100% fiber-reinforced concrete
- Facilitated transition between reinforced concrete and fiber-reinforced concrete
- Maintenance of all the productivity gains of the reinforced concrete segment in terms of; number of segments/ring, length of the segment, power of the tunnel boring machine (shoe forces).
- Same level of cracking in percentage as reinforced concrete; comparable crack size, the cracks close.
- This results in better resistance to corrosion (size of the fibers/diameter of the reinforcements) and therefore greater durability of the fiber covering.
- Environmental gain (lower consumption of raw materials, manufacturing of fibers less polluting than that of reinforcements, gain in transport of fibers is equal to 300% compared to reinforcements).



**Groupement Eiffage et Maître  
d'Œuvre EGIS**

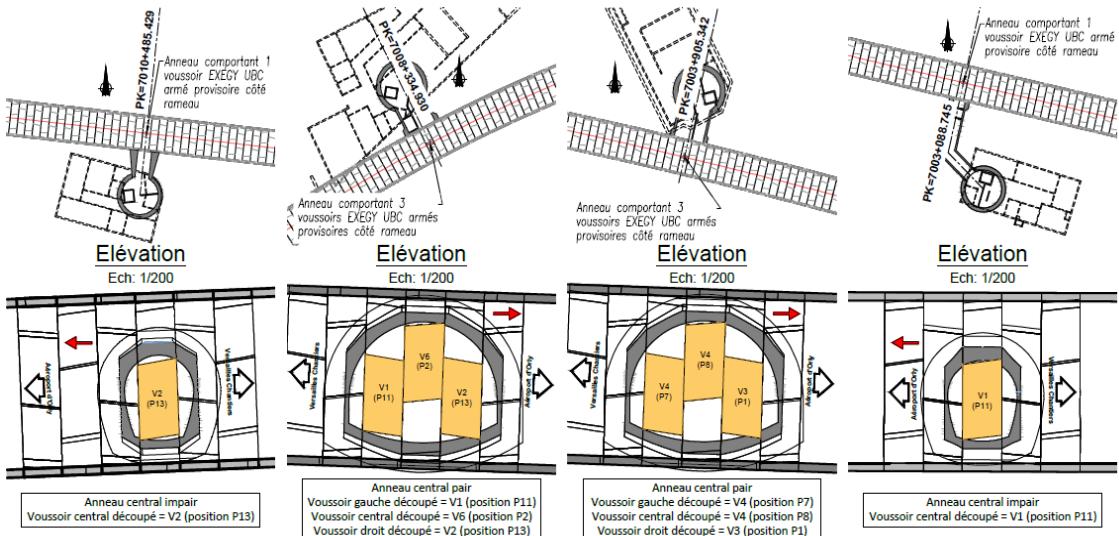
# Line 18 - Lot 1 Massy/Orly



« ultra-low-carbon concrete »  
experiment- Location of the segments

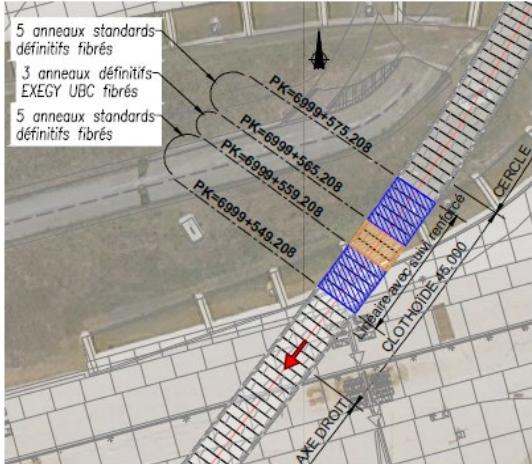
Groupement VINCI et Maitre d’Œuvre ICARE

8 temporary reinforced segments



21 final fiber reinforced segments (3 rings)

Behind the station, after the terminus of the line



# Conclusion for experiment

8 reinforced + 21 fiber reinforced ULC segments for a 6,050m long tunnel  
(HK EPB TBM, Ø = 9,15m, 7 reinforced or FR segments per ring- 40cm thickness - 2,00m wide)

Exegy Ultra Low Carbon (ULC) Concrete:

Nearly 100% of the clincker replaced by activated Ground Granulated Blast Furnace Slag (GGBS)

70% less of CO<sub>2</sub> emmission

Activated GGBS:

Chemical composition close to clincker

Environnemental footprint :16kg eq.CO<sub>2</sub>/t

# Line 15 Sud - Gare Fort d'Issy Vanves Clamart



Performance and modelling of a deep excavation in the context of the Grand Paris project

K. Nejjar<sup>1</sup>, A. Boffa<sup>2</sup>, D. Dias<sup>3</sup>, F. Cuira<sup>1</sup>, P. Videl<sup>2</sup>, H. Le Bissonnais<sup>1</sup>, G. Chapron<sup>1</sup>

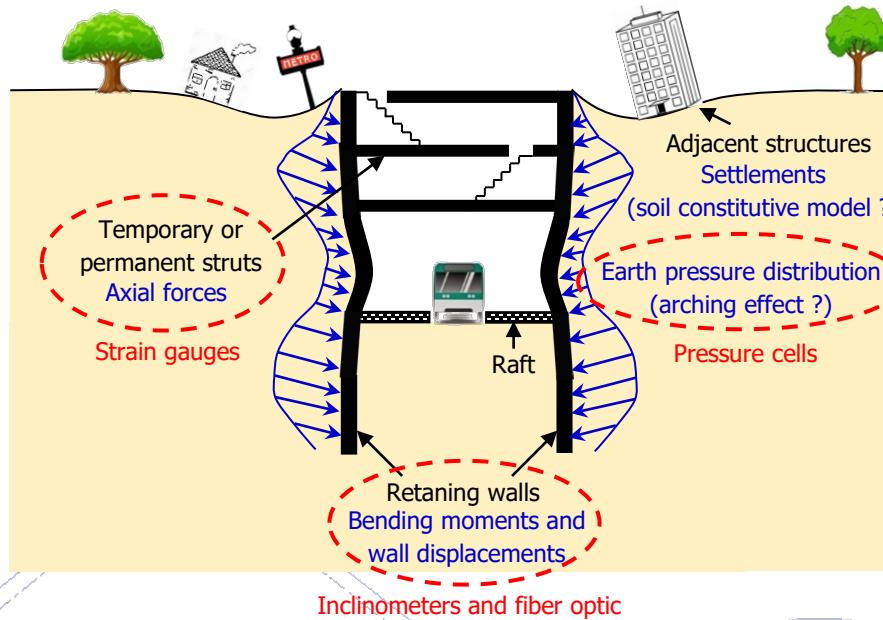
<sup>1</sup>Terrisol, Paris, France

<sup>2</sup>Soletanche-bachy, Paris, France

<sup>3</sup>3SR Laboratory Grenoble Alpes University, Grenoble, France



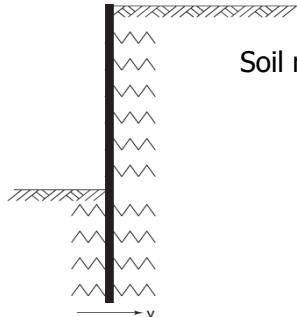
# Main topics



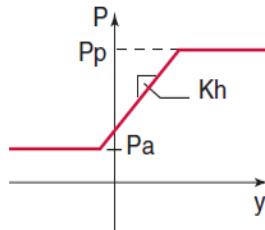
Assessment of FIVC metro station performance with advanced monitoring system  
Comparison with modelling using two approaches: Subgrade Reaction Method (SRM)  
and Finite Element Method (FEM)

# Modelling approaches

## Subgrade reaction method (SRM)



Soil reaction modeled with independent springs

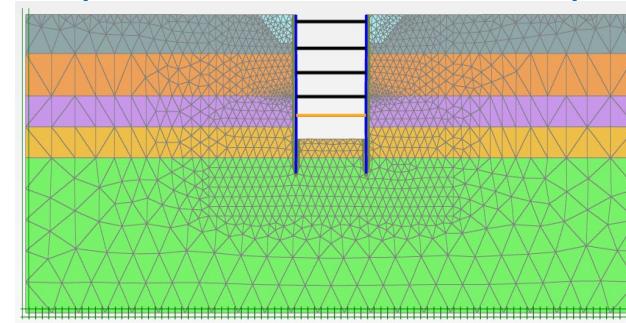


French standard NF P 94-282 :

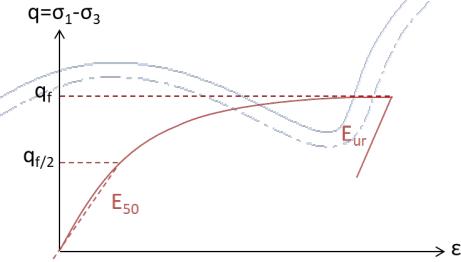
$$K_h = 2 \left( E_M / \alpha \right)^{4/3} / (EI)^{1/3}$$

Active and passive earth pressure  $P_a$  and  $P_b$  from Caquot-Kerisel Theory

## Finite element method (FEM)



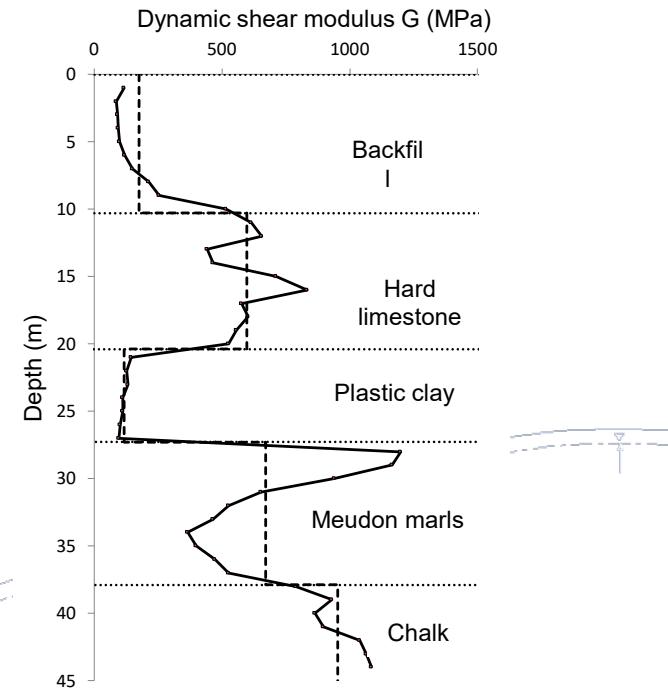
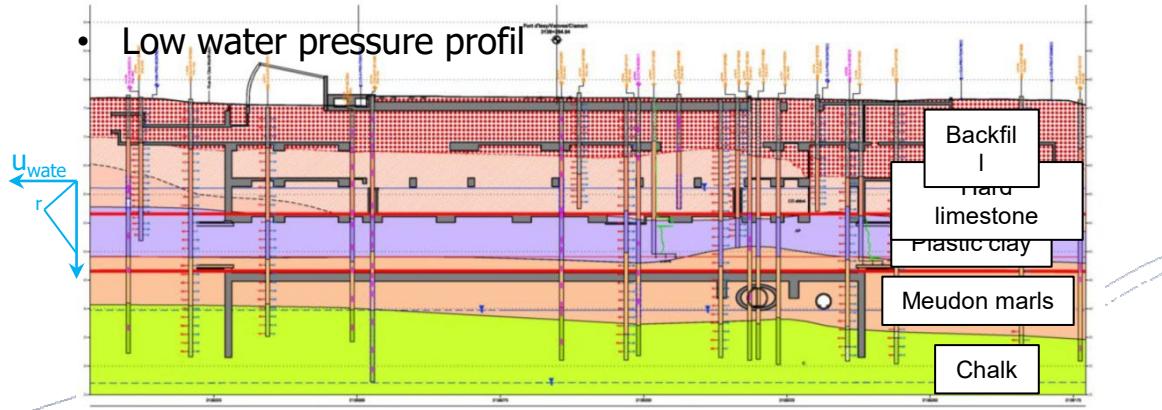
Soil modeled as continuum medium with HSM constitutive model



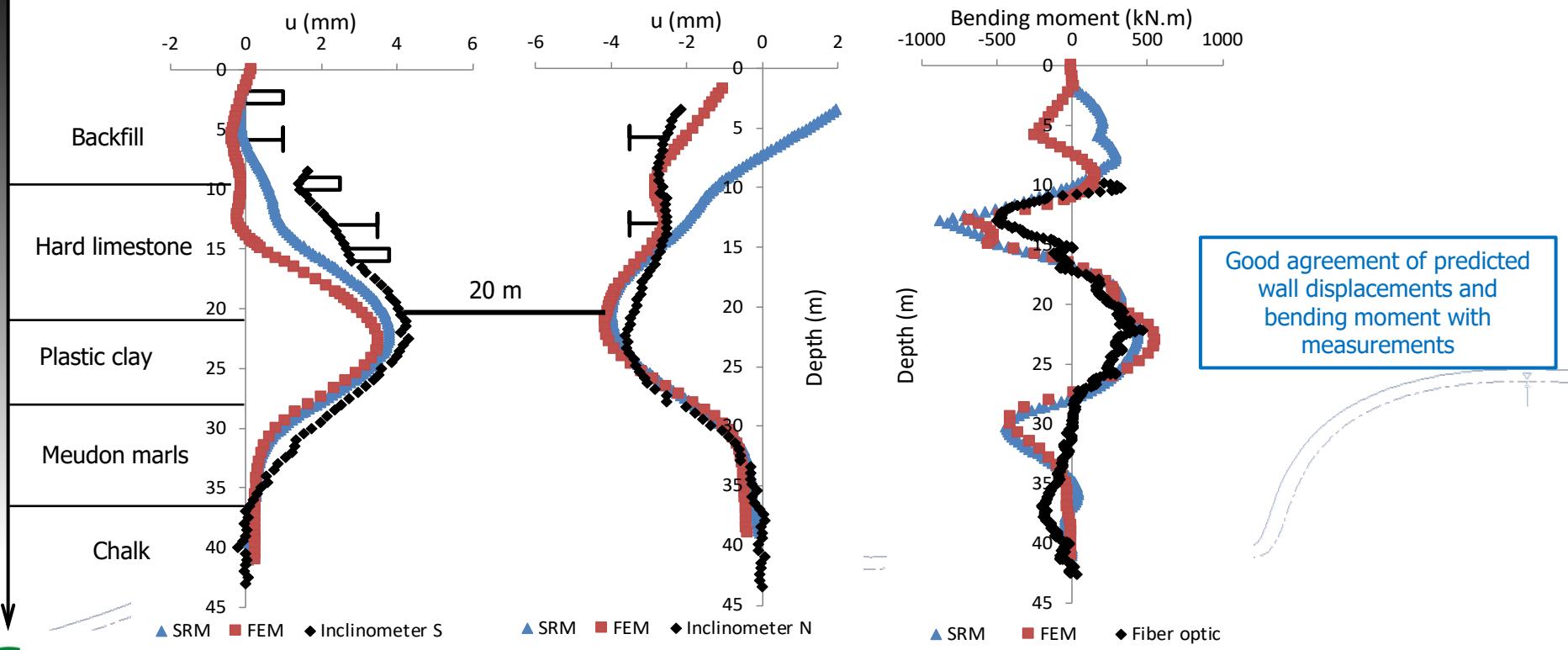
# FIVC metro station performance

## Geological context

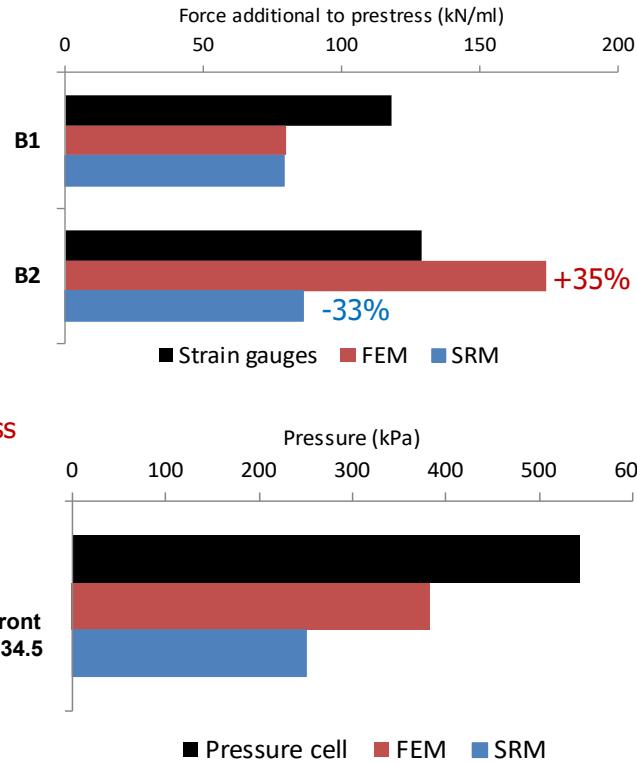
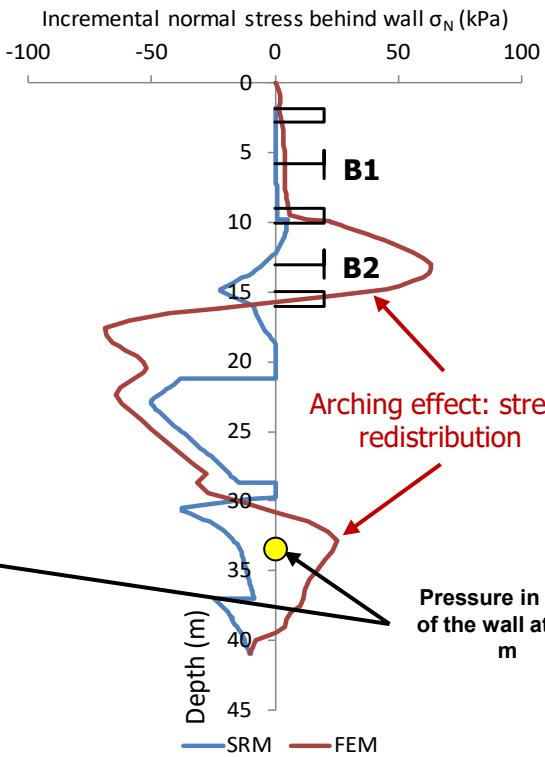
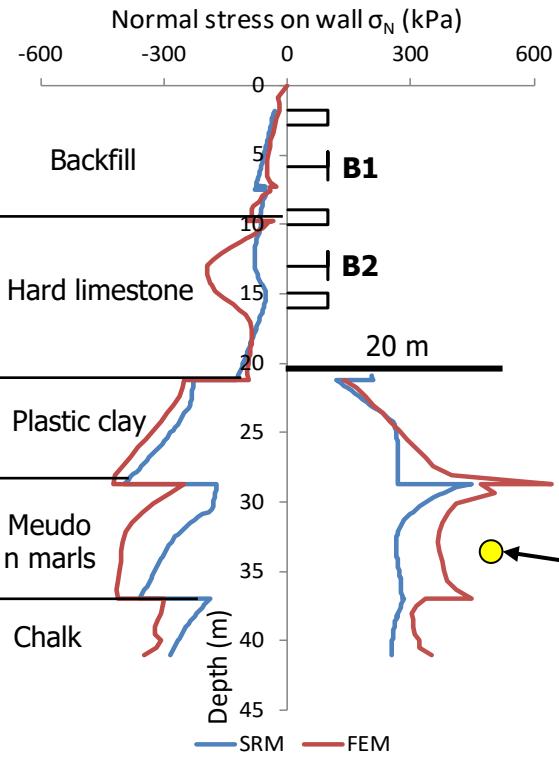
- Stiffness contrast between Hard limestone and Plastic clay
- Plastic clay (8m): stiff ( $C_u = 120$  kPa) overconsolidated ( $OCR=2.2$ ), water content 30%, plasticity index 55%
- Retaining wall (1.2 m) bottom in Chalk at 40 m deep
- Low water pressure profil



# FIVC metro station performance



# FIVC metro station performance



# Conclusions

- Rich case studied with advanced monitoring system allowing to assess modelling results with different measurements : wall displacement, bending moment, strut force and earth pressure
- SRM is largely sufficient to predict wall displacement and bending moment of retaining walls
- FEM may be needed to assess the impact of arching on stress redistribution for deep excavations in particular where the pore pressure is low
- Hybrid method seems ideal to improve the classical subgrad reaction method with considering springs interaction

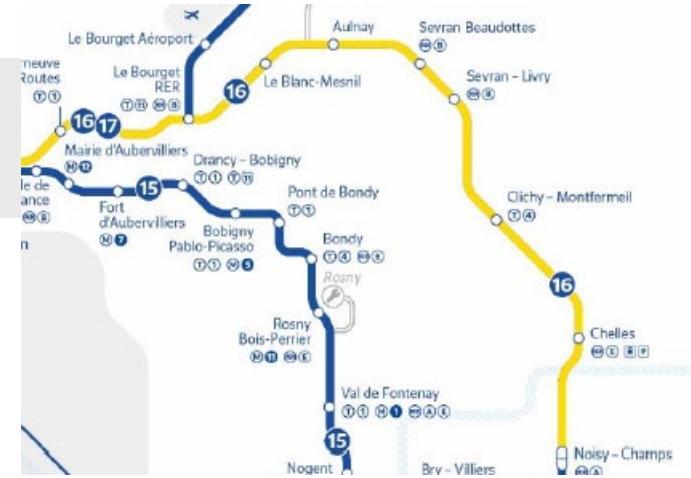
Thank you for your attention



FIVC metro station worksite 2018

# Line 16 - Gare Clichy Montfermeil

Conception d'un radier sur  
sol gonflant - Cas pratique  
de Clichy- Montfermeil



Missom OUEDRAOGO  
Ingénieur-Doctorant



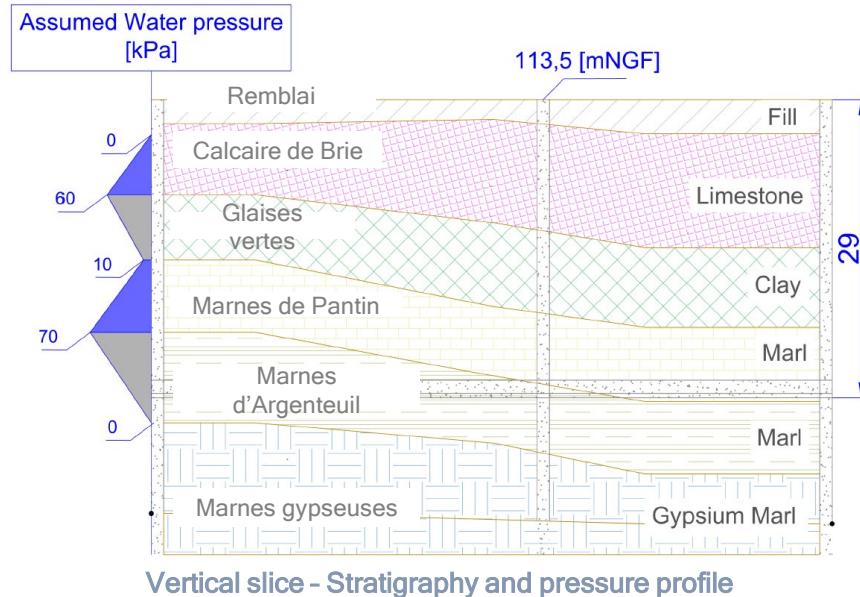
# General context



Clichy Montfermeil, Paris, 2021

Diameter 1 : 33 m ; Diameter 2 : 39m ; Excavation : 30m.

- Complex geometry of the structure
- Raft laying on expansive marls
- Expansive behavior of the soil assessed after the first conception step ➔ Optimization of the design



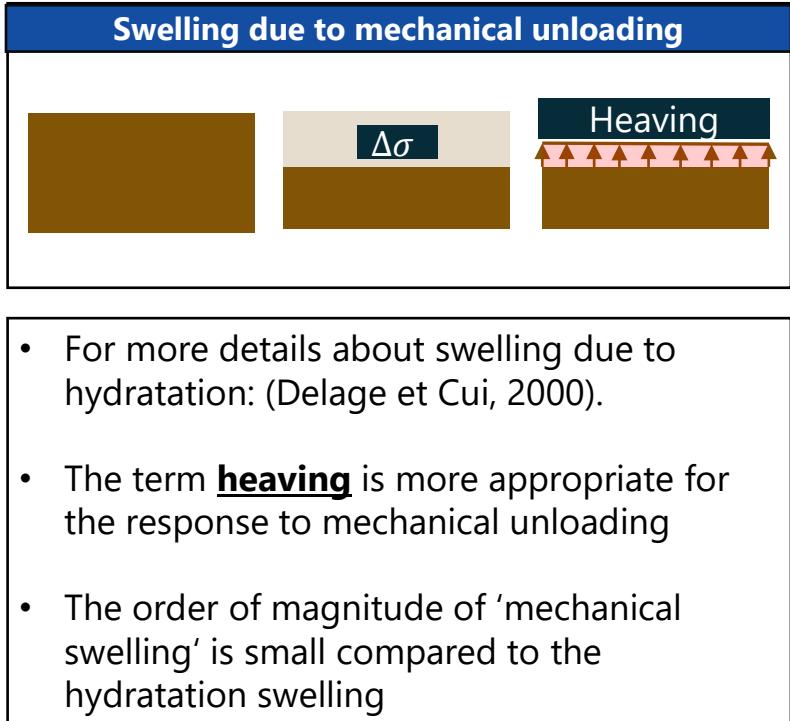
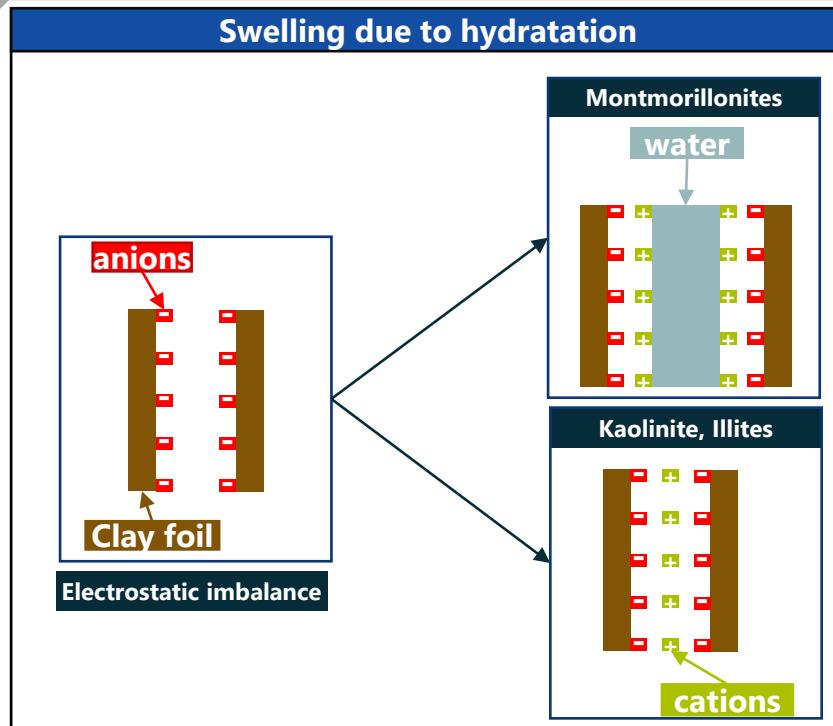
Titre du document: Conception d'un radier sur sol gonflant - Cas pratique de CMF

Code GED :

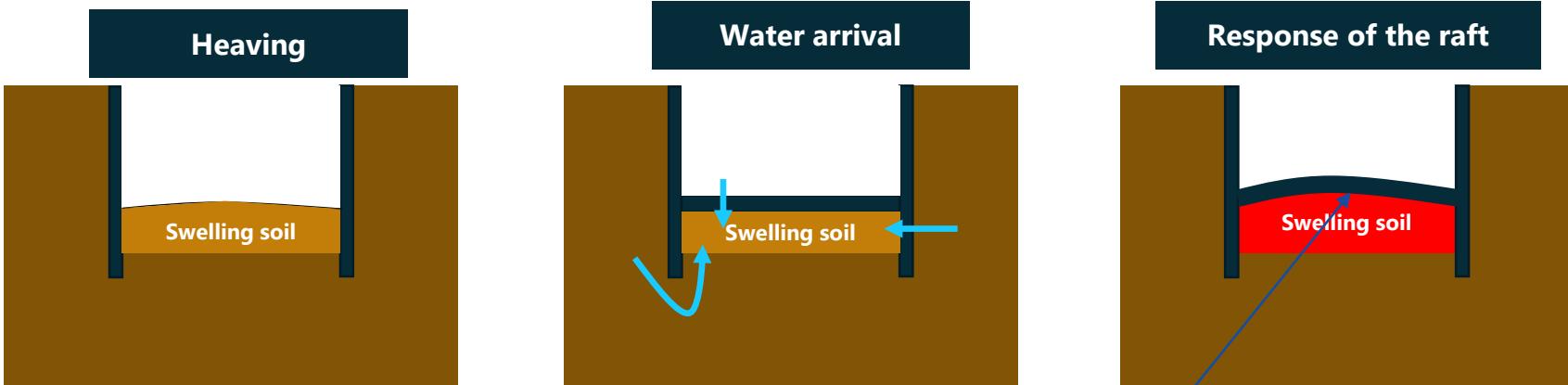
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Classification Interne GPE

# What is swelling ?



# Impact of the swelling

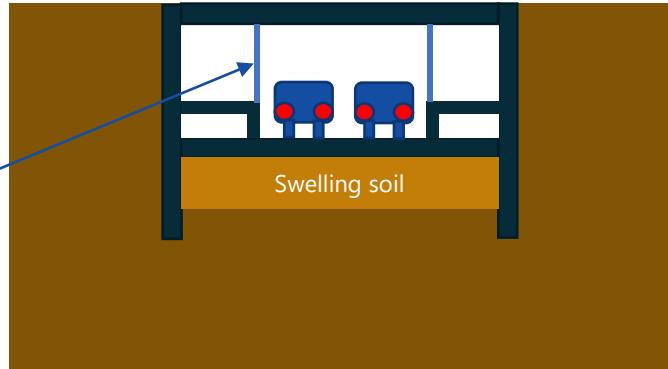


May lead to safety or serviceability issues

# Impact of the swelling

## Specific case of Clichy-Monfermeil

**Serviceability issue:** The future subway's barriers are very sensitive to vertical displacements



### Possible solutions

- Substitute the swelling soil,
- Prevent the soil from hydration,
- Reinforce the structures in contact with the swelling soil,
- Intercalate a very soft material between the soil and the structure.

# Conception process

## Solution 1 : Reinforcement

Designing principle : Thicker = Stiffer + heavier

In our situation :

- Required thickness 3,5 m;
- Large amount of concrete.



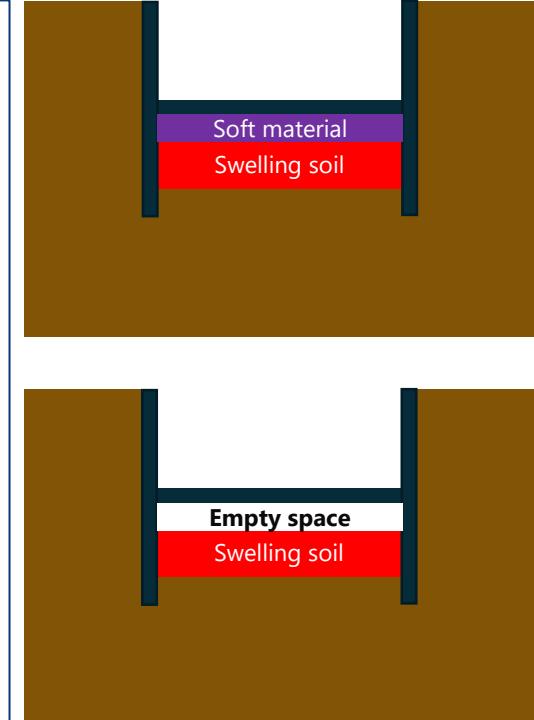
# Conception process

## Solution 2 : Soft layer of connection

**Designing principle :** Free swelling = no swelling pressure applied to the raft

**In our situation :**

- Considered Material: Polystyrene
- Local punching of the compressible soil due to the structure
- Requires extra excavation and installation of a material ➔ consequences on planning and costs.



# Conception process

## Solution 3 : Accurate evaluation

### Designing principle : Two methods

1. 3D MEF : Simulation of swelling by applying volumetric deformation on the soil,
2. 3D MEF : Simulation of imbibition by decreasing soil's suction.

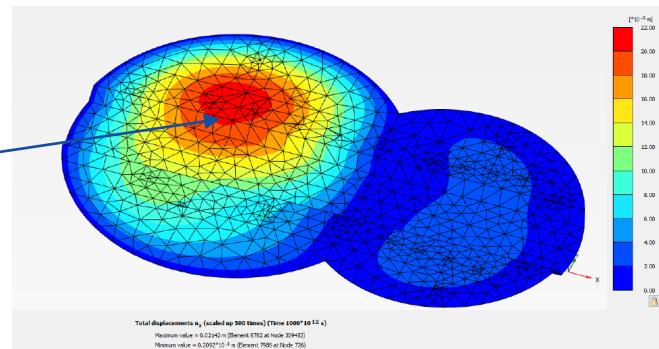
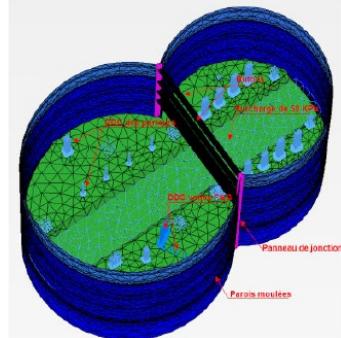
$$\varepsilon_G = -K \cdot \log \left( \frac{\sigma'_a}{\sigma'_{G \text{ Ref}}} \right)$$

### Conclusion:

1. Some agreements in the results of the 2 methods,
2. Thickness of the raft adjusted to 1.3m ,
3. Highlighting of a limited zone where the swelling is higher than the serviceability threshold of the barriers,

### Additionnal actions

1. Substitution of the swelling soil in the red zone,
2. Implementation of a system in order to monitor pore pressure, vertical displacements, and total stress under the raft. The monitoring system have been conceived and installed by egis.



Titre du document: Conception d'un radier sur sol gonflant - Cas pratique de CMF

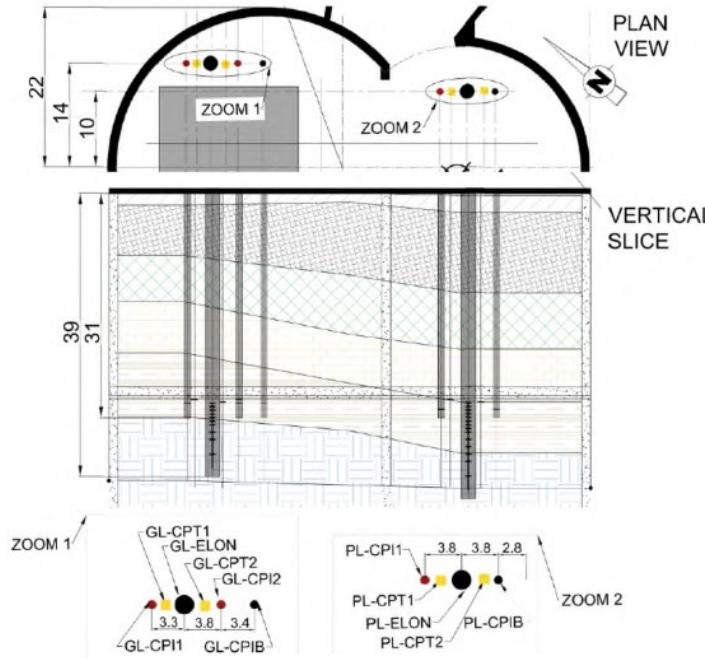
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# Conception process

## Monitoring system



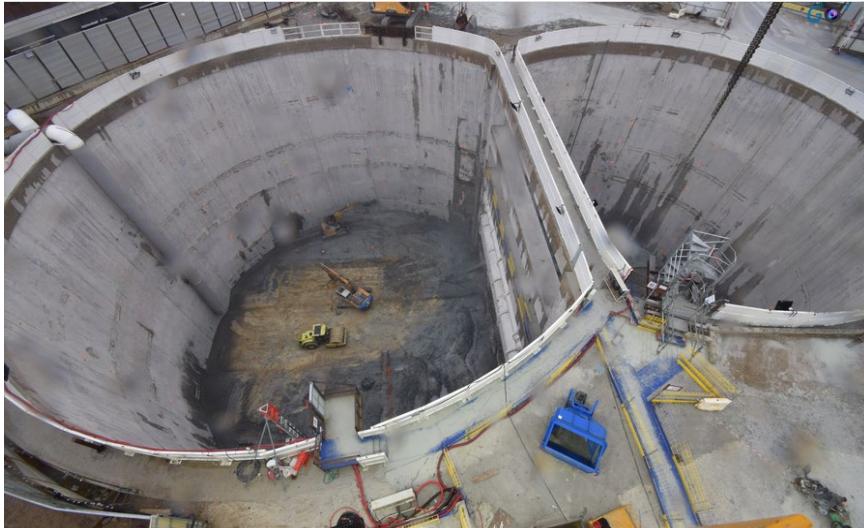
Overview of the monitoring system



Different steps of the installation of the monitoring system

# Conception process

## Monitoring system



Substitution of the soil in the swelling zone



Monitoring system during excavation

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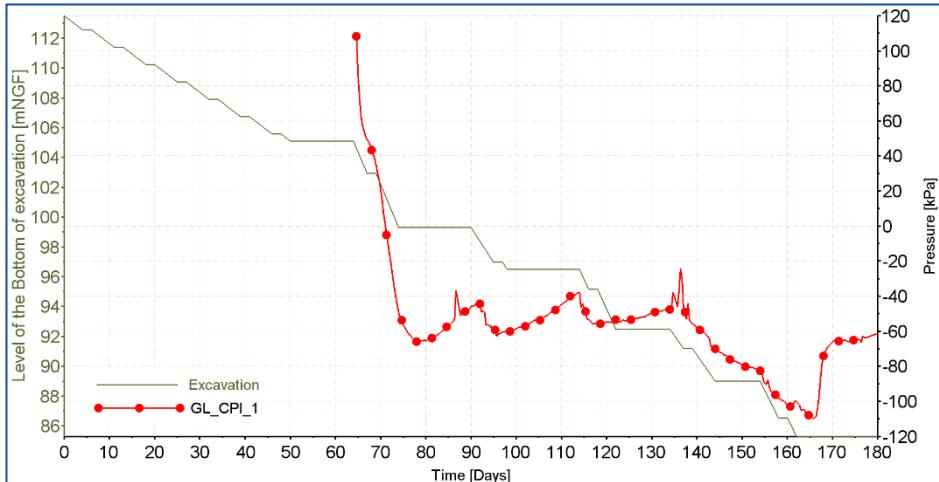
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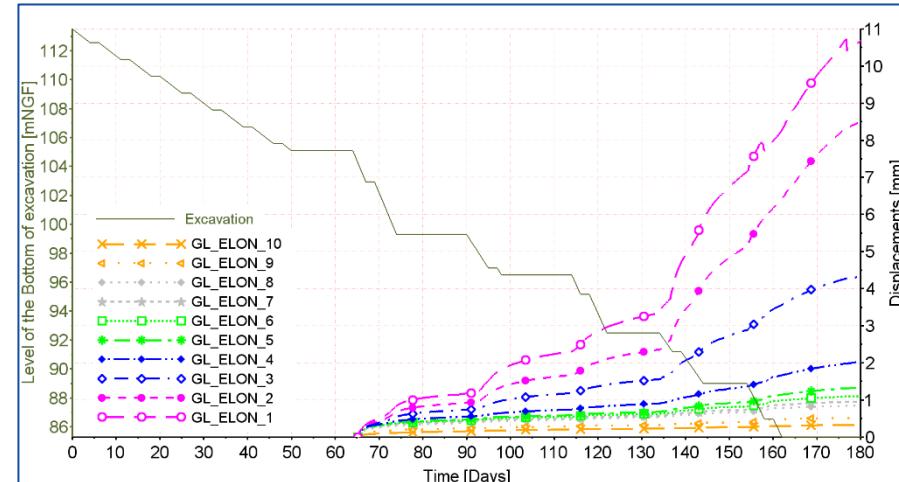
Classification Interne GPE

# Conception process

## Results



Evolution of pore pressure with time



Evolution of vertical displacement with time

(Ouedraogo et al., 2023)

<https://doi.org/10.1051/e3sconf/20233822400>

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# CONCLUSION



- In today's context, issues linked with swelling are taking more and more importance,
- Yet there is no standardized methods to deal with this process. A technical committee of 'CFMS' is now working on that,
- In the case of Clichy-Montfermeil, MEF method have been applied in order to accurately estimate the impact of the soil's swelling on the raft. Two methods have been used to evaluate this impact and an appropriate solution have been implemented.
- In addition, a monitoring system has been installed by egis before the start of the excavation and may help improve the comprehension of this process.

# Thank you for your attention



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