

# ELECTRIC TRAMWAY

## SZEGED, HUNGARY

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### Elasto Ballast Track Slab is the new standard for modern rail ballast track

In August 2008, the Hungarian Government approved the 100 million Euro upgrade to the Szeged electric tram public transport network. Upgrades included the rehabilitation of 18.3km of tram track and the construction of 4.8km of new tram track.

The tram lines were originally designed with a traditional rail pad tram system, however, concerns over durability, costs, stray current and construction time resulted in the contractor (SzKT) ordering the designs changed to a synthetic fibre reinforced track slab system, making it the project of it's kind in Europe.

Fibre testing at the University of Budapest showed that BarChip fibre was the highest performing synthetic fibre available, and that the performance of 5kg/m<sup>3</sup> of BarChip 48 was equivalent to 55kg/m<sup>3</sup> of steel fibre.

SzKT worked closely with EPC on the design to maximise both the performance and durability of the track slab met and exceeded all of the design life requirements.

The design used for the Szeged tram lines are usable in all types of flexible supported tracks and traditional superstructures. The structures can be built with BarChip synthetic fibre reinforcement to any type of pavement, traffic volumes and road traffic up to 10-11.5t permissible axle load.



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