In 2012 ABB received a request to reproduce eight traction motors for VBZ (the communal transportation company of the Swiss city of Zurich). ABB had manufactured the original motors in the 1990s and thus had full technical competence and know-how for the project. In addition, based on the experience VBZ gained over the years, essential technical improvements could be included in the reproduction as well as a redesign organized by ABB. For motors and generators service, these replicas meant manufacturing new stators, rotors and all the necessary components, ultimately resulting in a complete engine.

Tram 2000 is the name of a type of tram operated by VBZ. It was built between 1976 and 1992 as the successor to the Be 4/6 Mirage in order to modernize the Zurich tram operator’s fleet.

The replica motors fit perfectly into the original system, requiring no change – a plug-and-play solution. This approach avoided additional charges having to do with certification approval, adaptation engineering and so on.

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