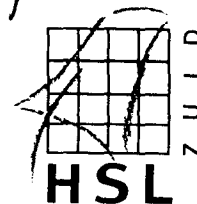


VNW/DGMO-2009/4975

Subject:
Registration Document HSL-Zuid



Westrail International
Mr. M. Jadot
Stefaniaplein 20
1050 Brussel
België

Dear Mr Jadot,

Please find enclosed the Registration Document for High Speed Line-South (HSL-Zuid) train operations in the Netherlands.

The Registration Document summarises the current proposals for train operations on the HSL and invites your comments on the opportunities being created and to register an interest in the contracts on offer. We are particularly interested in your views in the light of your present involvement in high-speed passenger transport to and from the Netherlands.

In June 1998 a Consultation Document was distributed to a broad business audience, including yourself, requesting the views of respondents on the proposed opportunities for partnership between the public and private sectors in the creation of a high-speed rail business in the Netherlands.

Following that consultation the Dutch Government decided to offer separate tenders for provision of the HSL infrastructure and for provision of train operations. The pre-qualification procedure to design, construct, maintain and finance the systems infrastructure started in February 1999, and the selected consortia are now responding to the tender documentation.

The publication of this document marks the start of the tender procedure for train operations. Separate contracts for domestic and international operations will be tendered and the Cabinet has clearly expressed its intent to attract competitive offers from potential operators for these contracts. International train services on the HSL-Zuid will be put out to public tender and the final tender procedure for domestic high speed services will be decided by the Cabinet in November 1999 following further investigation. The Registration Document explains this process in detail.

We would welcome the opportunity for the Train Operations Project Leader, Jeroen Kok, whom you will certainly meet in Brussels next week, at the conference "Creating a passenger focused network", to discuss with you informally the best way to involve Westrail in the project.

More specifically we would like to understand your opinion on the following issues:

- the options for Westrail to bid directly for international and/or domestic train-services on HSL-Zuid;
- the options for future co-operation between Westrail and third parties that have obtained rights in the Netherlands regarding international and/or domestic services on HSL-Zuid;

Date

22nd June 1999

Our reference

HSL/U199902000

Contact person

Jeroen Kok

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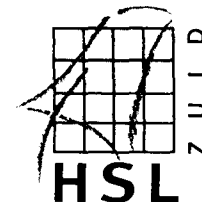
Utrecht

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- the options for NS (Dutch Railways) regarding its position in Thalys or Westrail should they choose to accept the Government's offer, notably:
 - * the opportunity to put in a bid for the domestic services without competing offers; (on the condition that)
 - * if their bid is successful they will co-operate in the introduction of a new player on the Dutch end of international HSL-services.



We appreciate the fact that you have a partnership with NS in the current operations of Thalys and we have informed them of our intention to invite you to exchange views on this issue.

I hope you will be able to give this document careful consideration and will be able to respond.

Yours sincerely,

Wim Korf
Project Director

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