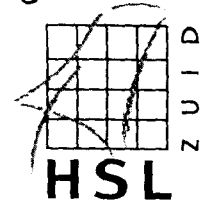


Venw/DG/RO-2009/1982

Subject:  
Registration Document HSL-Zuid



Tony Mercado, Esq.  
Director, Railway Operations and Maintenance  
Alstom Transportation Projects Ltd  
PO Box 134  
Manchester  
M60 1AH  
United Kingdom

Dear Mr Mercado,

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

The Registration Document summarises the current proposals for train operations on the HSL and invites you to comment on the opportunities being created. We are particularly interested in your views in the light of Alstom's broad transport experience and especially its expertise in high-speed rolling-stock.

In June 1998 a Consultation Document was distributed to a wide business audience, including Alstom, 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. Alstom's responses at that time helped to shape the current proposals, including the separation of infrastructure from train operations and the nature of the concession rights on offer.

Following that consultation, 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 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.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Wim Korf'.

Wim Korf  
Project Director

Date  
9<sup>th</sup> June 1999  
Our reference  
HSL/U199901792  
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