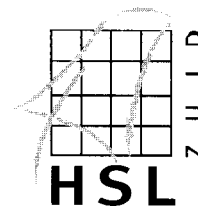


VenW/D GMO-2009/5176

Subject
Tender HSL-Zuid Transport Contracts



National Express
Attn. R. Goldson
75, Davies Street
W1Y 1FA London
United Kingdom

Dear Mr. Goldson,

On 16 June I wrote to inform you about the decision by the Dutch Cabinet to proceed with the tender for the HSL-Zuid transport contracts. A debate in Parliament on the 29th of June did not lead to any changes of the governments decision, which means that the decision to offer the HSL-Zuid transport contracts for tender is now official and irrevocable. The tender process will not be stopped provided enough consortia qualify and compliant bids are received.

The Qualification phase will start on 17 July when we will send the Qualification Document (QD) to all Registered Parties. This document describes the exact criteria for companies and consortia, which need to be met in order to qualify for an invitation to tender.

The most important criteria were already discussed with you in the Market Dialogue, like:

1. Experience in operation of train services;
2. Experience in passenger transport by other transport modes;
3. Adequate insights in the Dutch passenger transport market;
4. At least one Registered Party per consortium;
5. A company may, directly or indirectly, only qualify once;
6. A consortium may not include more than one of the current Thalys partners (NS, DB, NMBS and SNCF);
7. The Incumbent Railway Companies (NS, NMBS and SNCF) along the Amsterdam- Brussels-Paris corridor have to co-operate with the government's efforts to create a level playing field.

Companies may apply for the international contract, the domestic contract and/or a combined contract. A single application will be sufficient for both the domestic and international contracts and the combination of the two. A Registered Party may, however, adapt the exact composition of its proposed consortium per contract, in which case a separate application must be lodged for each of these contracts.

Date
4 July 2000
Our reference
HSL-Zuid U-77870
Your reference
-
Contact person
Roel Testroote
Extension
0031 30 2728 751
E-mail
roel.testroote
@hsizuid.com

Project Organisation
Hogesnelheidslijn-Zuid
Address:
PO Box 43
3500 AA Utrecht
The Netherlands
Visiting address:
Catharijnesingel 33
3511 GC Utrecht
Tel 0031 30 2728 400
Fax 0031 30 2728 577

The timetable for the tender procedure is as follows:

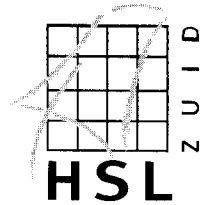
Steps	Expected timing
Issue of the Qualification Document	17 July 2000
Qualification phase	17 July 2000 – 15 September 2000
Issue of the Invitation to Tender	October 2000
Bidding phase	October 2000 – February 2001
Issue of the Invitation to Negotiate	March 2001
Negotiating phase	March 2001 – June 2001
Contract close	June 2001

During our meeting on Tuesday 11 July (11.00 hours, at your office) we would like to discuss the above mentioned procedure with you in more detail.

Yours sincerely,



Ir. W. Korf
Project Director HSL-Zuid



Datum
4 July 2000
Kenmerk
HSL-Zuid U-77870
Blad
2/2