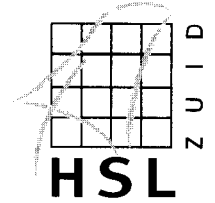


Venw/DEMO-2009/5195

Subject
Tender HSL-Zuid Transport Contracts



NS
Attn. P. Geurts
Postbus 2025
3500 HA Utrecht

Dear Mr. Geurts,

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 then 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
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The timetable for the tender procedure is as follows:

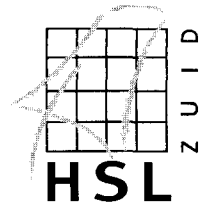
| Steps | Expected timing |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Issue of the Qualification Document | 17 July 2000 |
| Qualification phase | 17 July 2000 – 15 September 2000 |
| Issue of the Invitation to Tender | October 2000 |
| Bidding phase | October 2000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

During our meeting on Wednesday 5 July (16.00 hours, in Den Haag) 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

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