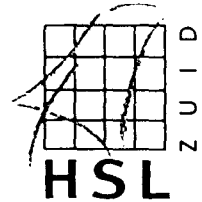


Van W/DGMO-2009/5292

Subject
Qualification HSL-Zuid Transport Contracts



Stagecoach Holdings Plc
Attn. Mrs A. Ingram
231-232 Blackfriars Road (Wessex House)
London SE1 8NW
United Kingdom

Dear Mrs Ingram,

Thank you for returning the Request for Qualification. Parts A, B, C1-3 of the Request for Qualification provided by you and your partners, will be evaluated during the next weeks. Parts C4, D and E will be assessed after 2 October 2000.

The assessment will be done by a number of teams from the Ministries of Transport and Finance and other external experts. These teams will advise both the Ministers of Transport and Finance.

We would like to inform you that we have received a total of 4 applications:

1. Arriva Nederland – Deutsche Bahn Reise & Touristik AG;
2. ConneXXion – SJ International – CGEA Connex;
3. Stagecoach Holdings Plc¹;
4. NS Reizigers BV – KLM (Royal Dutch Airlines)².

In line with your Request for Qualification, we will assess Stagecoach Holdings PLC. We understand that you are currently in discussion with a Dutch partner. Should you wish to extend your consortium we will handle this request in the shortest possible time, in line with our Memorandum of Information No. 2, date 06-09-2000, question 1.

On the 27th of October we will announce the consortia that have been qualified. The Invitation to Tender will be send to you in November 2000.

Yours sincerely,

Bas van Os
Project Manager HSL-Zuid Transport Contracts

¹ In the cover letter of the Request for Qualification it was mentioned that: "We are currently exploring the possibility of adding a minority partner to our bidding team from one of the Dutch bus companies".

² In the cover letter of NS to the Request for Qualification it was mentioned that: " ...NS Reizigers and KLM have agreed on a Memorandum of Understanding with National Express Group PLC."

Date
25 September 2000
Your reference
-
Our reference
HSL-Zuid U-129601
Contactperson
Roel Testroote
Extension
0031 30 2728 751
E-mail
roel.testroote@hslzuid.com

Projectorganisatie
Hogesnelheidslijn-Zuid
Postal address:
PO Box 43
3500 AA Utrecht
The Netherlands
Visiting address:
Catharijnesingel 33
3511 GC Utrecht
Tel +31 30 – 2728 400
Fax +31 30 – 2728 577