

Press release

**SPAIN BUILDS THE FIRST HIGH SPEED
TRAIN IN SAUDI ARABIA**

- **The Hispanic-Saudi consortium was awarded the contract worth almost seven billion euros.**
- **The project includes the design and construction of the track and systems, the operation and maintenance of the line and the supply of 35 trains over 12 years.**
- **Consultrans, which has promoted and coordinated the consortium and managed customer administration, shall continue to carry out project management work.**

Madrid, 26 October 2011.- SRO (Saudi Railways Organization) has announced the award of the contract for the construction and commissioning of a high speed train between Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia, known as the Haramain High Speed Rail (HHR), to a Spanish consortium. The project, worth 6.736 billion euros, is the most important project of these characteristics in this sector outside of a European country and is the largest international contract obtained by Spanish companies.

The consortium, known as Al Shoula Group, is made up of twelve Spanish companies: Imathia Construcción, Adif, Renfe, Talgo, Indra, Dimetronic, Cobra, Inabensa, Copasa, OHL, Consultrans, Ineco and two Saudi Arabian companies, Al Shoula and Al Rosan.

This award is further demonstration that Spanish engineering is at the highest level in the world and that the Spanish high speed model is an example of excellence exportable to other countries.

The operation of this new line is a significant challenge in terms of the technical aspects, due to the climatological conditions and desert environment, as well as the demand profile, with an exponential increase in the number of passengers during the annual pilgrimage period.

Consultrans has centralised promotion and integration tasks for the Hispanic-Saudi consortium in all the technical, financial, legal and administrative aspects required to successfully undertake a railway project of these characteristics and this magnitude, sourcing the most suitable local partners and managing customer relations. After award of the contract, the company will be responsible for the general administration of the company awarded the contract as well as project management.

Haramain High Speed Railway (HHR) Project

Given the magnitude of the project, the Saudi Government has opted for an award procedure that is divided into several phases: phase one includes the design and construction of the infrastructure and stations, and phase two, which is the object of this award, shall include the detail design, superstructure and railway systems construction, as well as the operation and maintenance of the entire line over a period of 12 years.

The project involves the construction of the high speed railway line between the cities of Mecca and Medina with a length of 450 km of double track for speeds of up to 320 km/hour. The line will have stations in Mecca, Jeddah, the King Abdullah Economic City (KAEC), the King Abdulaziz international airport and the city of Medina.

Only two consortiums were pre-qualified for the presentation of the offers, which was made on 3 July 2010: the Hispanic-Saudi group (Al Shoula) and the Franco-Saudi group.

The execution of this second phase involves the design and construction of the track, the design and installation of electromechanical systems (electricity supply, overhead cabling, signalling, telecommunications and ticketing), the supply of rolling stock material, commissioning the project and the operation and maintenance of the line and the rolling stock material over 12 years.

The King of Saudi Arabia and Custodian of the two Mosques has expressed the importance and priority of this line. The service for pilgrims is the key factor in this project, since it is anticipated there will be more than 160,000 daily travellers in the pilgrimage period.

Alta Velocidad Española (AVE) Excellence

The selection of a Spanish consortium to undertake this ambitious project demonstrates that the Alta Velocidad Española (AVE) is a model that is exportable to other countries and markets. Thanks to the works carried out and the experience accumulated on the Spanish lines, Spain has become a country of reference in high speed. Spanish companies are world leaders in the different subsectors in which this transport method is structured.

Spanish companies have achieved a high level of innovation and high standards of quality, in addition to demonstrating adaptability to work outside of Spain and an ability to reach profitable agreements with local partner companies.

Corporate information

Consultrans, with more than 25 years experience in strategic and management consultancy and with an interdisciplinary focus, offers a complete range of legal, technical and financial consultancy services to companies and institutions. Its strength is in the operational capacity of its work team and its high level of specialisation in several economic sectors, including transport and infrastructures, public administration, information technologies and R&D+i projects.

Consultrans has a strong international component for the export of consultancy and engineering services as well as the promotion of International Consortiums for managing “turnkey” high speed railway services projects.

Contact persons: Virginia Hernando Abascal Tel : 91 575 4616 virginia.hernando@consultrans.es www.consultrans.es
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