



Press release

24 November 2008,

Egis has been awarded the contract for the technical, environmental and railway studies for the Poitiers-Limoges high speed line

This autumn Réseau Ferré de France (RFF) entrusted Egis with the contract for the preliminary studies, designs and assistance during the tender phase for just over **100 km of new high speed line between Poitiers and Limoges.**

With the new section of high speed line, the network between Paris and Limoges will cut travel time between the two cities to less than two hours, thereby facilitating access to other cities in the southwest by 2016.

The environmental stakes

After having identified the main environmental stakes for the entire area concerned by the project, RFF entrusted *Egis Structures & Environnement* with the environmental studies to define the measures to be implemented to develop environmentally integrated transport.

The environmental stakes identified in the different options of the project are:

- the outskirts of cities such as Limoges and Poitiers;
- scattered rural housing and buildings around a large section of the line;
- numerous streams, rivers and valleys acknowledged as being of interest in terms of landscape and ecology;
- areas playing an important role in regional heritage such as Montmorillonnais, the Monts d'Ambazac, Bellac and Confolens, etc.;
- farming, mostly given over to livestock breeding. This aspect also gives the rural areas their characteristic charm and attracts tourism.

An innovative line

The technical and railway studies entrusted to *Egis Rail* in less than 3 years include both preliminary studies and preliminary designs. They are innovative, in particular for 2 reasons:

- the feasibility of a high speed line **using sections of single track for the first time in France.** This dictates strict design constraints to guarantee operating safety,
- **the Seligman circular,** (clarification of the roles of SNCF and RFF in managing the studies) well known to public transport design and construction engineers, is replaced in this high speed train project by **a new study and tender procedure that significantly shortens lead times.** To achieve this, the coordination of the different entities involved in the tender procedure occurs at the same time as the study.

An optional section also provides for development studies relating to existing stations and the constitution of a public enquiry file scheduled for 2011.

Egis Rail and *Egis Mobilité* have also just been awarded with contracts to perform the traffic and socioeconomic studies for the same project.

Egis – a subsidiary of Caisse des Dépôts with 6,300 employees around the world and a turnover of €450 M in 2007, is one of the world leaders in infrastructure and systems engineering for transport, development, water and the environment. It is also active in setting up projects and operating motorways and airports.

For more information go to www.egis.fr

Egis Rail – Egis Rail employs nearly 400 professionals and has a forecast turnover of €60 M in 2008. With over 40 years experience in guided public land transport. Egis Rail is dedicated to urban transport and railway engineering and provides consulting and design and construction services both up and downstream of every type of rail project (infrastructures and systems).

For more information go to www.egis-rail.fr

Egis Structures & Environnement – with 300 employees and a turnover of €45 M forecast for 2008, Egis Structures & Environnement has all the specialised engineering competences required for tunnels and underground works, geotechnics & materials, the environment and bridges.



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