Thales awarded the maintenance of 2,400 km line in Saudi Arabia

Thales has been awarded a one year renewable maintenance contract for the 2,400 km lines – mineral and passenger - of the North South Railway project crossing Saudi Arabia. This contract demonstrates the trust relationship built with Saudi Railway Company over years of collaboration to deploy the complete transportation systems on the line.

The North-South Railway (NSR) project in Saudi Arabia is the world's largest railway construction and the longest route to adopt the European signaling system (ETCS level 2). The project involves construction of a single 2,400 km track, sidings, yards, depots, stations and administrative facilities to create a line that has its origin in the capital city Riyadh, in the northwest of the country, to Al Haditha, near the border with Jordan.

The freight line, 1,486 km from Al Jalamid (phosphate belt) to Az Zabirah (bauxite belt), is now operational since November 2015. The 1,418 km passenger line from Riyadh to Haditha will be operational end of 2016.

Key Points
- One year maintenance contract for the 2,400 km lines between North and South of Saudi Arabia
- Maintenance including predictive activities to replace assets before they fail
- The freight line is operational since November 2015, and passenger line at the end of 2016
The maintenance contract includes the corrective activities as well as predictive maintenance. This will enable rail operators to fix assets before they fail. Asset performance is constantly improved for a better service and an optimized cost of the infrastructure. This maintenance contract is extendable in the coming years.

Thales is one of the leading providers of signaling solutions and equipment's maintenance worldwide and particularly in Europe which adopts first this new state of the art ETCS technology.

Notes to editors

The industrial line is a 1,486 km rail line from Al Jalamid (phosphate belt) in the north to Az Zabirah (bauxite belt) in the centre of the country and is running eastwards to the processing and manufacturing facilities at the Arabian Gulf in Raz Al Khair, from where the final products are shipped by see. The freight trains are running at a speed of 80km/h when loaded and 100km/h when empty.

The 1,418 km passenger line runs from Riyadh and passes through industrial stations in Sudair, Al Qassim, Hail, Al-Jawf and Al -Basayta to Al Haditha. The passenger route will accommodate trains travelling at 200 km/h.

About Thales

Thales is a global technology leader for the Aerospace, Transport, Defence and Security markets. With 62,000 employees in 56 countries, Thales reported sales of €14 billion in 2015. With over 22,000 engineers and researchers, Thales has a unique capability to design and deploy equipment, systems and services to meet the most complex security requirements. Its exceptional international footprint allows it to work closely with its customers all over the world.

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