Thales commissions a new railway signalling generation at Beira Baixa Line in Portugal

- Thales successfully completed the commissioning of the new electronic signalling system, installed at Beira Baixa Line, between Covilhã and Guarda stations, thus concluding a long-awaited project with high strategic interest for the national railway infrastructure.
- This project, with an approximate length of 45km, connecting two stations already equipped with different Thales signalling technologies, had as its main intervention targets, the Belmonte station and the Caria, Maçainhas, Benespera and Sabugal stops.
- With this milestone, Infraestruturas de Portugal (IP) achieved the completion of what will be the only alternative of Beira Alta Line, allowing in this regard to create an important redundancy in the North International Corridor, which today is undoubtedly the main railway channel with the neighbor country.
- For Thales, it was a huge challenge, not because of its extent, but because it was the opportunity to implement a new generation of electronic interlocking (PIPC G3) with object controllers (DCA) and the introduction of a new train detection technology, by the use of Thales Track Circuits (TTC).

Thales and the Portuguese Railway

Thales has been an important presence since the beginning of the Signalling Modernization program, started by Infraestruturas de Portugal (at that time named CP and then REFER) early the 90’s.

It marked the introduction of new interlocking technologies with the supply of new electronic signalling systems, also, created the concept of Integrated Railway Communications Systems, offering a strong enhancement in all Passenger-centred services, developing Passenger information Solutions, which become an important part of Thales’ portfolio.

In 2007, Thales designed and implemented the new Lisbon Operational Control Center, covering 70% of Portuguese rail traffic. With almost 30 years of cooperation in signalling and telecommunications renewals on the Portuguese network, Thales is a key presence in the Railway market and the main supplier of maintenance in these fields.

About Thales

Thales (Euronext Paris: HO) is a global leader in advanced technologies, investing in digital and “deep tech” innovations – connectivity, big data, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and quantum computing – to build a confident future crucial for the development of our societies. The Group provides its customers – businesses, organisations and governments – in the defense, aeronautics, space, transport, and digital identity and security domains with solutions, services and products that help them fulfil their critical role, consideration for the individual being the driving force behind all decisions.

Thales has 81,000 employees in 68 countries. In 2020 the Group generated sales of €17 billion.