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SYSTRA has won the contract to oversee the design and to supervise the construction of 1,000 km of high-speed railway - in Kazakhstan, confirming its leadership in international railway engineering

SYSTRA has signed a contract with Kazakhstan [Temir Zholy](#) (KTZ) - the Kazakh Railway Authority to oversee the design and to supervise the construction of a high-speed rail line between the cities of Almaty and Astana. The contract was signed on 5th March in Kazakhstan's capital city of Astana by SYSTRA CEO Pierre Verzat, and Askar Uzakpaevitch Mamin, KTZ Chairman, marking 10-years of successful collaboration. This partnership took on a new dimension in 2011 following the signature of a contract for a feasibility study for this line.

The first high-speed rail project for Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan's first high-speed rail line will link two of its most populated and economically active cities. Covering a distance of 1000 km, the high-speed line will be designed to operate at speeds of 250km/per hour. This vast sparsely populated area of central Asia is part of the Eurasian 'Steppe', where climatic conditions are extreme, with variations in temperature of up to 75°C between summer and winter are normal. The high-speed line will comprise of a 10km bridge over Lake Balkhash. These specific technical issues and a tight 4-year deadline (for completion of the design and construction phases) present - a major challenge. The line is due for commissioning by Spring 2017 to coincide with the inauguration of the [World Expo](#) in the capital Astana.

On appointing SYSTRA, KTZ Chairman Askar Uzakpaevitch Mamin said,

"SYSTRA has proved to be a partner in which we can have great confidence. They have continually demonstrated their ability to provide reliable solutions to a variety of technical issues associated with the project and with regard to our important deadline. SYSTRA knows how to adapt its services to meet our requirements".

This contract strengthens SYSTRA's position as a world leader in international high-speed rail projects.

SYSTRA is involved in every high-speed rail project in France and is currently working on the Southern Europe Atlantic line (Tours-Bordeaux) as a member of the LISEA consortium. We are also working on a number of international projects including the Kenitra-Tangiers line in Morocco, HS2 in the UK, and the French tender for the Rio de Janeiro-Sao Paulo-Campinas concession in Brazil with the SNCF-Alstom as well as on projects in India, Malaysia, Thailand and Russia.

SYSTRA CEO, Pierre Verzat said,

"We are delighted to win this major project it reiterates our expertise as a world leader of high-speed railway engineering. Our unique relationship with the SNCF Group and our international high-speed rail experience gained over the past 50-years has given us the know-how and confidence to deliver."

Notes to Editor:

1. Kazakhstan is the world's largest landlocked country. And, is the world's 9th largest country. The population of Kazakhstan is 16.6m.
2. Astana with a population of 800,000 is the capital city. Almaty has a population of 1.4m and was the former capital of the Kazakh SSR.
3. In 2011, [Temir Zholy](#) (KTZ) appointed SYSTRA to lead the feasibility for the HSR line between Almaty and Astana.

Anne Christine Béon, +33 170 983 640, acbeon@systra.com
or **Marion Gourlay** +44 (0)7801 301 259, mgourlay@systra.com

About SYSTRA

SYSTRA is a world leader in transport engineering. In 2012, SYSTRA had a turnover of €406 of which 53% was from international projects. We employ 3,500 people throughout the world and have managed over 3,000 contracts in 150 countries and 350 cities.

