

MOROCCO: EGIS/SYSTRA/NOVEC CONSORTIUM AWARDED CONTRACT TO PROVIDE PROJECT MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE FOR THE HIGH-SPEED LINE BETWEEN KENITRA AND MARRAKECH

August 2nd, 2024 – The Office National des Chemins de Fer (ONCF) has awarded the project management assistance contract for the infrastructure of the high-speed line between Kenitra and Marrakech to the Franco-Moroccan consortium comprising Egis (lead), SYSTRA and Novec.

With a view to hosting the Football World Cup in 2030, organised jointly by the Kingdom of Morocco, Spain and Portugal, Morocco is speeding up the implementation of its high-speed rail network to Marrakech and plans to modernise its conventional network (RER in Casablanca, Rabat and Marrakech) by launching an unprecedented investment programme over the next 7 years. ONCF has enlisted the support of Egis, SYSTRA and Novec to help it carry out this programme.

This investment, in line with the Rail Morocco 2040 Plan, includes the extension of the existing high-speed line between Tangiers and Kenitra to Marrakech, providing a high-speed rail link between the capital Rabat, Casablanca, Marrakech and Tangiers. This new infrastructure will enable trains to travel at 320km/h over 430km of new high-speed line, making Morocco's rail network one of the most modern and efficient in the world. The project is due to be inaugurated at the end of 2029, before the start of the World Cup.



This project is part of the Kingdom's policy to accelerate the decarbonisation of the transport sector, by offering users a very high-performance, low-carbon means of transport that is open to all.

The project involves assisting ONCF in the construction of 430km of new high-speed line, 130km of quadrupling of the conventional line around Casablanca (Casablanca Hub) and new stations.

The consortium that will carry out this service is made up of 3 engineering companies that have already been at the heart of the 1^{er} high-speed line project between Kenitra and Tangiers, and therefore bring all the guarantees and skills needed to achieve this new project.

The project management assistance contract covers project management, master planning of operations, maintaining the consistency and technical optimisation of the project, as well as the overall integration of the project. The consortium will provide ONCF with its skills in managing major rail projects, as well as its technical expertise to cover the various contracts and to assist the project owner during the testing, approval and civil engineering approval phases.

Egis

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un futur durable

Egis is an international player active in architecture, consulting, construction engineering and mobility services. We create and operate intelligent infrastructures and buildings that respond to the climate emergency and contribute to more balanced, sustainable and resilient territorial development.

Operating in 100 countries, Egis puts the expertise of its 19,500 employees at the service of its clients and develops cutting-edge innovations accessible to all projects. Through its wide range of activities, Egis is a key player in the collective organisation of society and the living environment of citizens all over the world.

In the field of high-speed rail, Egis has acquired unique experience on numerous high-speed line programmes, first in France and then as a major player in the deployment of high-speed rail technologies in Europe, and now in the Middle East, the United States and Asia. In Morocco, Egis has been working with ONCF for over 20 years, particularly on the deployment of its high-speed network. The Group was a key player in the high-speed line project between Kenitra and Tangiers, as civil engineering EPC project manager for the northern section, and as integrated project manager in the railtrack, catenary and works base contract for the entire line. In recent years, it has assisted ONCF in carrying out and supervising studies for the project to extend the high-speed line from Kenitra to Agadir, as well as studies for signalling from Tangiers to Casablanca, and studies for electrification of the line from Fez to Oujda.

Egis places its African strategy at the heart of the pan-African vision of the Kingdom of Morocco. In 2022, Egis inaugurated its new African headquarters in Casablanca, within the CFC (Casablanca Finance City) ecosystem, with relevant partners and funds active in infrastructure on the continent, and manages all its African activities from Morocco.

SYSTRA



SYSTRA is one of the world's leading engineering and consultancy groups specialising in public transport and mobility solutions. For more than 65 years, the Group has been committed to helping cities and regions to contribute to their development by creating, improving and modernising their transport infrastructures. With its 11,000 employees, the Group's mission is to facilitate transport throughout the world, bringing people closer together and giving them access to employment, healthcare, education and leisure.

SYSTRA has been a specialist and pioneer in high-speed rail for over 40 years and has contributed to the design of half of the world's high-speed lines in service or under construction on 5 continents. The Group's experts have contributed to most of the HSLs built in France and are working on most of the HSLs currently being planned in the UK (HS2), the USA (California), Egypt, the Baltic States, Spain and Sweden.

From 2002 to 2018, SYSTRA contributed to the design and build of Africa's first HSL, linking Tangiers with Casablanca in Morocco. SYSTRA was mobilised at all the design and execution phases, from preliminary studies to the commissioning with two major assignments: the project management of the longest civil engineering section, located in the south (over 110km), and the project management assistance for the running of operations

relating to railway and electromechanical equipment along the entire 183km new line alongside ONCF. Our teams were also responsible for the ERTMS Level 2 signalling design, for the maintenance workshop, the line's power supply, a special expertise assignment (*Mission d'Expertises Particulières*, MEP) to check the entire infrastructure but also validation of all the project milestones and the carrying out of tests.

This range of assignments, the widest among all the engineering firms mobilised on this project, was an occasion for close collaboration between the Group's French and Moroccan experts as well as an opportunity for our local partners, design offices and construction companies to improve their skills.

Novec, *Your Multi-Skilled Partner For Sustainable Projects*

Founded in 1958, Novec is today a major player in engineering in Africa.

As a subsidiary of the group "Caisse de Dépôt et de Gestion", Novec establishes itself as a center of excellence, capable of supporting the development of the Kingdom in its territorial projects and supporting growth projects in Africa and the Middle East.

With a multidisciplinary team of more than 500 employees, including 250 engineers, Novec operates in various fields, such as large infrastructures, hydro-agricultural developments, drinking water and sanitation, energy, the environment, the building, etc.

For almost twenty years, Novec has supported ONCF company in the realization of several railway projects across Morocco, notably that of the high-speed line project between Kenitra and Tangier, as a member of the mastery of civil engineering work for the north lot.

Thanks to its recognized experience and proven expertise, Novec provides a relevant engineering solution, perfectly in line with the needs and expectations of its customers and providing sustainable solutions to the major challenges of our country.

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