

Press release

DB Schenker Rail and SNCB join forces and launch new production company

Closely linked production on German-Belgian corridor will boost competitiveness

(Brussels/ Berlin, December 10, 2009) DB Schenker Rail, the freight railway company of Deutsche Bahn, and the SNCB (Belgian national railway) freight division, today signed an agreement to establish a joint production company, named COBRA. The two railway operators join forces in order to be able to offer better quality and efficiency on the Belgian, German and Dutch routes. Moreover, COBRA permits to have a more competitive offer and strengthen the international position of both companies. COBRA will serve as a production company, so all commercial activities remain in hands of the two main operators. COBRA stands for Corridor Operations Belgium Rail, it is subject of approval by the anti-trust authority. The main office of the joint production company shall be located in Brussels; the company shall be managed by a well balanced team of SNCB and DB Schenker Rail managers. All COBRA trains will operate across borders, thereby saving transport time and costs.

“Due to increasing competitive pressures and especially in light of the current crisis our main goal is to offer our customers a high quality of transport services. Cross-border trains offered and managed by a single source deliver the performance that our customers demand,” noted Dr. Alexander Hedderich, CEO of DB Schenker Rail.

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