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Press release

Munich, 4th June 2013

New collaboration

BLS Cargo and ERS Railways to work together on the Netherlands-Italy corridor

BLS Cargo and ERS Railways today set the seal on the collaboration for moving freight traffic between Rotterdam (NL) and Melzo (IT). From December 2013, BLS Cargo will take control of the business, which will make use of an innovative operating concept.

An agreement was signed today at the transport and logistics trade fair in Munich between ERS Railways and BLS Cargo, covering traction of Rotterdam-Melzo traffic in Switzerland and Italy for the next three years. From timetable change in December 2013, BLS Cargo will be responsible for haulage of over 1'000 trains annually on the Swiss and Italian railway networks. "We are proud to have acquired one of the most prominent players on the freight corridor through Switzerland, ERS Railways, as our customer" says Dirk Stahl, CEO of BLS Cargo.

Together with ERS Railways, BLS Cargo has developed an innovative, highly-efficient concept for moving the traffic via the Lötschberg-Simplon route. This includes the use of a BR 186 multi-system locomotive throughout between the Netherlands and Italy. "It was BLS Cargo's innovative traction concept based on cross-border locomotive utilisation, thus substantially reducing overall transit times, which convinced us" explains Frank Schuhholz, Managing Director of ERS Railways.

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BLS Cargo in a nutshell

BLS Cargo is the service provider on the central north-south corridor through Switzerland. Based in Switzerland, it offers customers a full package of services for the carriage of freight between the North Sea and the Mediterranean in collaboration with dynamic partners. Its core business is the operation of block train services for unaccompanied intermodal freight, conventional wagonload traffic and the Rolling Highway. A further source of income is traffic within Switzerland and import-export traffic. BLS Cargo works together with international partners, using its modern multi-system locomotives on cross-border services.

For further information: www.blscargo.ch

ERS Railways in a nutshell

ERS Railways B.V. is one of the leading, 100% privately-owned railway companies in Europe. Founded as an intermodal operator back in 1994 running a few weekly roundtrips between Rotterdam and Melzo, ERS Railways today provides intermodal rail services in several European countries. These services are operated using either the company's own resources or based on strategic partnerships and involve the dedicated utilisation of multi-system electric locomotives. Maritime hinterland services connect large European ports such as Rotterdam, Bremerhaven and Hamburg with the major industrial centers in the European hinterland. In addition to the ports, continental services link together Europe's most important industrial regions. Standard traction services for customers with their own rail wagons round off the company's current service portfolio.

For further information: www.ersrail.com