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Approval of the competition authorities

Approval of the competition authorities to the acquisition of 45 percent shareholdings of BLS Cargo by SNCF Logistics

The competition authorities of Switzerland and Germany both approved the SNCF Logistics' acquisition of 45 percent of the shares of BLS Cargo. The new partnership between the two rail freight companies starts officially beginning of July.

The acquisition of an equity interest by SNCF Logistics in BLS Cargo has been communicated in February 2017 and was under the conditional approval of the competition authorities in Switzerland and Germany. Both authorities now approved the acquisition of 45 percent of shares of BLS Cargo by SNCF Logistics. The shareholding of BLS Cargo consists as from July of 52 percent BLS AG, 45 percent SNCF Logistics and 3 percent Ambrogio Group (IMT).

The cooperation between SNCF, its Captrain subsidiaries and BLS Cargo will strengthen the successful business model of the parties on the North/South freight transport corridor. The partners will intensify the collaboration in cross-border transport, mutually benefit from the partnership, and present international and consistent services on the market.

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BLS Ltd in brief

BLS is the largest independent private railway company in Switzerland. It operates the standard gauge section of the Bernese S-Bahn, Lucerne West S-Bahn, as well as several regional lines in a total of seven cantons. As a transport company, its activities also include the Lötschberg car transport service, Bernese Oberland Navigation and bus services of Busland AG in the Emmental area. BLS also provides its customers with 33 travel centres and ticket offices. Thanks to its subsidiary company BLS Cargo Ltd, BLS is also well represented in the freight transport sector. BLS Netz AG runs the Lötschberg base tunnel (NRLA) through the Alps and a rail network that is 420 kilometres in length. In 2015, BLS Ltd transported 60 million people by rail, bus and boat, achieving a turnover of CHF 1 billion. The Group employs a workforce of around 3,000 in Switzerland, Germany and Italy.

SNCF Logistics in brief

SNCF Logistics manages all of the Freight Transport and Logistics activities of the SNCF group. The division proposes to its clients, in Europe and worldwide, multimodal solutions (by road, air, rail) along with integrated solutions to optimize their supply chain. SNCF Logistics is the French leader in transport and logistics, n°4 in Europe and n°8 worldwide. It has 52 540 employees. It generated €10.3 billion in revenues in 2015. Spanning 120 countries, it carried out 54% of its activities outside of France.