

Hamburg, 16 February 2012

Hub Terminal in Česká Třebová

New Container Hub in the Czech Republic

HHLA's rail subsidiary Metrans is expanding its transport network in Central and Eastern Europe by building an additional hub terminal in the Czech Republic. Construction work in Česká Třebová is due to begin as early as this spring. The facility will supplement the existing terminal in Prague to become the second Czech hub for container transport by rail.

Metrans – a rail subsidiary of Hamburger Hafen und Logistik AG (HHLA) – is investing a total of € 20 million in building the hub in Česká Třebová. The city is approximately 180 kilometres East of Prague and is traditionally an important rail hub for the Czech Republic.

HHLA is forging ahead with the expansion of its hinterland network by opening a second container hub in the country. As recently as autumn 2011, HHLA and the rail operator Polzug opened a state-of-the-art hub terminal near the Polish city of Poznań. “We are systematically building on Hamburg's favourable geographical position by offering efficient hinterland connections. This is beneficial for our clients, the Port of Hamburg, and the economies in Central and Eastern Europe,” said Klaus-Dieter Peters, Chairman of the Executive Board at HHLA.

HHLA's subsidiary Metrans links the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and other countries in the region with Germany's sea ports by means of high-performance rail services and hubs. More than 70 shuttle trains run back and forth between Prague and Hamburg alone every week. Metrans owns and operates six inland terminals. Of these, the facilities in Prague (Czech Republic) and Dunajská Streda (Slovakia) act as hubs which pool large volumes of freight before transporting them onwards throughout the region. The four other Metrans terminals are end terminals in Zlín, Plzeň and Ostrava (all Czech Republic) and Košice (Slovakia).

“Over the last few years, we have succeeded in building up one of Europe's largest inland terminals in Prague. An additional hub in Česká Třebová will enable us to further increase container transport in both directions between Slovakia, Austria, Hungary and the Eastern Czech Republic on the one hand and the sea ports – especially Hamburg – on the other,” explained Jiri Samek, Managing Director of Metrans.

In the first phase of construction, Metrans will build a terminal with the capacity to process around 150 trains a week and space to store 4,500 standard containers (TEU) initially. The terminal may be expanded over the coming years. The hub will have three portal cranes spanning 90 metres and six sidings, each 700 metres in length. This will enable Česká Třebová to handle block trains, eliminating the need for time-consuming and costly shunting. Operations at the terminal are expected to start in summer 2012.

A hub of this kind is of key strategic importance for freight transportation and as a means of linking the Czech Republic with the sea ports by rail. For this reason, the construction project is receiving funding from the European Union.

The hub also stands out because container trains with electric locomotives can drive straight into the terminal and leave it again once they have been processed, without the need for any shunting. Like in Prague, cargo can be transhipped straight from one train to another, which saves time and is good news for the environment. "All in all, this means we can save several hours in transit traffic. The efficient layout of the terminal will also boost productivity significantly," said Samek.

The following photos are available for downloading from the HHLA home page under the rubric 'Press', Photos & Films/Current Press Photos: [click here for download](#).



About Metrans

Metrans connects the emerging economies of the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary with the German sea ports via an innovative, high-performance and eco-friendly transport system. The company was established in 1991 and operates terminals in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Hamburger Hafen und Logistik AG (HHLA) holds a 51.5 % stake in Metrans, while DB Schenker Rail owns 35 % and the management team holds 13.5 % of the shares.

About HHLA

Hamburger Hafen und Logistik AG (HHLA) is a leading port logistics group in Europe. With its Container, Intermodal and Logistics segments, HHLA is positioned vertically along the transport chain. Efficient container terminals, high-capacity transport systems and a full range of logistics services form a complete network between the overseas port and its European hinterland.

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