



Satiksmes ministrija

Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Latvia

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H.E. Ms. Božena Forštnarič Boroje
Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia
in the Republic of Poland

sloembassy.warsaw@gov.si

Your Excellency,

With this letter I would like to inform you personally about the advancement of the Rail Baltica project implementation and the tender launched 12 November 2021 by the Rail Baltica national implementing body in Latvia for the construction of the Rail Baltica main railway line. I trust that this could interest relevant service providers on an international level and within Slovenia.

Rail Baltica is a new European standard 1435mm North Sea - Baltic (NSB) TEN-T Core Network Corridor element aimed at integrating the Baltic countries Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania into a unified European rail network, receiving up to 85% co-financing under the Connecting Europe Facility. It is a cross border project implemented jointly by the three Baltic countries with the total length 870 km (~260 km in Latvia) that will provide the missing link necessary to ensure operability of the NSB Core Network Corridor by 2030. Currently preparatory work for massive construction in all three Baltic countries is ongoing.

The tender "*Rail Baltica main line construction in Latvia*" launched this November – a competitive procedure with negotiation - will be carried out in two stages and aims for an early contractor involvement (ECI) which is an internationally accredited practice that allows the Construction Contractor to provide input already to the final detailed technical design to match proposed construction approach and to commence construction planning. This allows to consolidate the responsibility for project execution while ensuring adaptive construction process: construction will be carried out in line with the maturity of the phases of the project and allows to act responsibly within the available EU funding.

The Competitive Procedure for this tender consists of two stages.

Candidates for Stage One - Selection of Candidates are invited to apply for the tender by 28 January 2022. During Stage One the Procurement Commission shall select candidates compliant with the requirements of the Regulations for the Selection of Candidates for participation in Stage Two of the Competitive Procedure.

Stage Two foresees evaluation of initial proposals submitted by the Tenderers and negotiations, submission of final proposals and awarding of the procurement contract. It is planned to announce Stage Two in April 2022 to conclude a contract with the winner of Stage Two at the end of 2022 and start construction works in the first half of 2023.

The winner of the tender will have to provide **construction works of Rail Baltica mainline infrastructure in the rural territory of the Republic of Latvia (more than 200 km)**, the scope of works including, but not limited to, construction of substructure, superstructure, structures, utilities, shift of networks and other. Detailed description of the subject-matter of the procurement will be issued to the Candidates which will be selected for participation in Stage Two of the Competitive Procedure.

Rail Baltica is a strategic project that demands strong involvement and commitment in terms of resources and capabilities from the entire European Union and the tenders have so far attracted wide international interest – in terms of signed contracts value for the Rail Baltica Global Project over 50% is with international enterprises. This testifies to the fact that Rail Baltica procurement, supplier participation and project implementation is conducted in a fair, open and transparent manner ensuring unrestricted and universal competition, which we expect also for the ambitious tender launched this November.

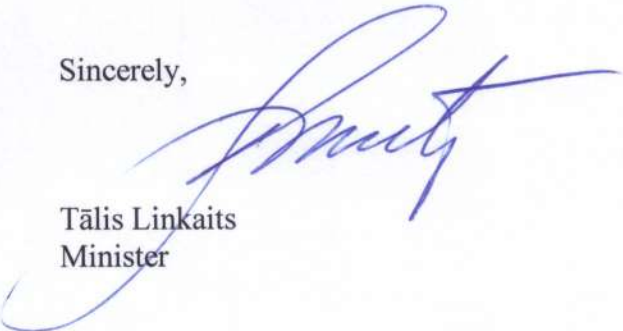
The Ministry would appreciate your involvement and readiness to share the above provided information with relevant railroad construction experts in your country. The content of the procurement subject-matter, relevant procurement regulations and all its annexes are available on the E-Tenders system of Latvia under the webpage <https://www.eis.gov.lv/EKEIS/Supplier/Procurement/60093>

On 7 December 2021 the implementing body of the Rail Baltica project in Latvia - Eiropas Dzelzceļa līnijas organizes an online meeting at 15:00 (Riga time) to inform interested suppliers and answer their questions. More detailed information about the announced tender and application for the meeting is provided in the Annex attached to this letter.

Further information about the Rail Baltica project is available on homepages of the implementing bodies – JSC Eiropas Dzelzceļa līnijas and RB Rail AS - <https://edzl.lv/> and <https://www.railbaltica.org/>.

Please accept, Excellency, assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,


Tālis Linkaits
Minister