



Hit Rail opens Brussels office to address work with European institutions and international rail organisations

TSI regulations fuel the need for closer cooperation across Europe

Utrecht/Brussels 18 September 2015 – Hit Rail B.V., one of Europe's leading organisations spearheading the drive towards interoperability between railway operators across the continent, has recently opened a representative office in Brussels to enable it to work more closely and effectively with European institutions and other railway organisations.

Located in the Avenue des Arts 53, Hit Rail's new office occupies the same building as several other railway interest groups, including the seat of the Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) and representative offices of the International Union of Railways (UIC), the Polish State Railways (PKP), Austrian Federal Railways (OeBB) and other rail bodies. Hit Rail already works closely with all these bodies and the new office will help to promote this cooperation. The close proximity to other European Union institutions is also a major advantage.

Hit Rail is itself a representative body for the rail industry. It was established in 1990 by 12 of Europe's leading railway companies with the initial aim of operating the Hermes data transmission network. The new office opens as the rail industry moves towards closer cooperation to implement the European Union's TSI regulations - the Technical Specifications for Interoperability of Telematics Applications for Freight (TAF) and Passenger services (TAP).

The company retains its legal seat and headquarters in Utrecht in the Netherlands, but felt the need to be closer to the European institutions by opening a representative office in Brussels. This is in line with a strategic decision taken by Hit Rail some years ago, to accompany its traditional business of operating the Hermes network with the development of the Hermes Open Services HEROS – a portfolio of products and services aimed at supporting the European railway undertakings and infrastructure managers in complying with the TAF and TAP Regulations.

The opening of the Brussels office follows a meeting between Hit Rail and officers of the EU Directorate on Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE) overseeing the TSI programme to discuss further developments in Hit Rail's HEROS platform in order to fulfill the needs of the European rail community. Hit Rail representatives also took part in the first TAF/TAP regional workshop in Madrid

in June, organized by ERA for support of the Spanish and Portuguese RUs and IMs. Earlier this year the company also signed a cooperation agreement with Raildata, a special group within the International Union of Railways which is active in the development and production of central information and data exchange systems for European freight rail transport.

Antonio Lopez, Managing Director of Hit Rail, said: "This is an important step for Hit Rail in taking our rightful place amongst the major actors in the European rail landscape. We are closely involved in the implementation of the TSI regulations and to do so we need to be able to work effectively with all the other major rail organisations and rail operating companies and react quickly to developments. It makes great strategic sense to have a physical presence in Brussels."

Press enquiries Hit Rail:

Sheila Lashford

Splash PR

Tel: +44 (0) 7986 514240

sheila@splash-pr.biz

About Hit Rail B.V.

Hit Rail B.V. is a private Dutch company created in 1990 and owned by 12 European railway companies. Its purpose is to help European railway companies to carry out international projects in related fields of data communications and information technology. Hit Rail is responsible for managing international private data communications infrastructure and message brokering services on behalf of its shareholders and customers. Its services are used by some 40 railway companies from 21 countries. All Hit Rail customers' data centres and company networks are interconnected by a pan-European IP-based VPN (Virtual Private Network) named Hermes VPN, which is supplied by British Telecom (BT) and managed by Hit Rail. In 2013 the company launched its HEROS message interoperability service which aims to enable interoperability across disparate platforms in railway companies across Europe.

For more information please visit <http://www.hitrail.com/> or send an email to info@hitrail.com.