



Press release

Amsterdam, 7 July 2009

NMBS and NS Hispeed present Amsterdam-Brussels high-speed train

At a special event in Amsterdam today, NMBS and NS Hispeed proudly presented the new high-speed train for the Amsterdam – Brussels route. Michel Jadot, director of NMBS and Michiel van Roozendaal, director of NS Hispeed, unveiled the name of the high-speed train that will run between Amsterdam and Brussels: the Fyra.

Michiel van Roozendaal: “The unveiling of this train from AnsaldoBreda today brings the connection of the Netherlands to the European high-speed network a step closer. This is a development that will be welcomed by our customers and benefit the Netherlands as a whole. The new train will bring European cities closer together. Passengers using Fyra will travel more quickly, easily and in greater comfort”. Michel Jadot: “Brussels is at the centre of the European high-speed network. This new train is about to fill the missing link in the network that previously existed between Brussels, Antwerp and the North. Amsterdam will then be a short one and three quarter hours away from Brussels. This represents a major step forwards in the development of the relationship between our two countries”.

The high-speed train that travels at up to 250 km/h will go into service on the Amsterdam – Schiphol – Rotterdam – Antwerp – Brussels and Amsterdam – Schiphol – Rotterdam – Breda route. The high-speed train on show today built by AnsaldoBreda in Italy is a prototype. This means that the exterior is complete but the inside is fitted with measurement and test equipment. Test runs will start on the HSL-South in the Netherlands and the L4 high-speed line in Belgium in the near future. Tests will be carried out under contract to AnsaldoBreda who will remain the owner of the train during the test programme. Following completion of the test programme the train will go back to AnsaldoBreda in Italy to be fitted out.

NMBS and NS Hispeed have 19 high-speed trains between them (3 and 16 respectively). The fact that it is TSI compliant (Technical Specifications for Interoperability) means this high-speed train is the first that can be operated on the entire European Union network. Depending on the test results from TSI and ERTMS (the train protection system chosen for Europe), it is anticipated that the high-speed trains will go into operation on the Amsterdam-Brussels route one year after the start of testing. When the high-speed line first comes into use, temporary rolling stock (Traxx locomotives and ICR coaches) will run on it for an initial period at a speed of 160 km/h.

In Fyra, NS Hispeed and NMBS offer the customer both speed and comfort. The train journey from Amsterdam to Brussels - city centre to city centre - will take just 1 hour 46 minutes, while the journey from Rotterdam to Schiphol will take 20 minutes. Customers have the option of purchasing tickets online. Follow developments as they happen at www.fyra.com, www.nshispeed.nl and nmbs.be.

Journey times and time saving

	<u>Journey times</u>		<u>Time saving over conventional train</u>	
	<u>High-speed train</u>	<u>Now</u>	<u>in minutes</u>	<u>percentage</u>
Amsterdam Centraal - Rotterdam Centraal	0:36	1:05	- 0:29	45%
Amsterdam Centraal - Breda	0:57	1:43	- 0:46	45%
Amsterdam Centraal - Antwerp – Centraal	1:09	2:06	- 0:57	45%
Amsterdam Centraal - Brussels – South	1:46	2:51	- 1:05	38%
Schiphol Airport - Rotterdam Centraal	0:20	0:49	- 0:29	59%
Schiphol Airport - Breda	0:41	1:36	- 0:55	57%
Schiphol Airport - Antwerp – Centraal	0:53	1:50	- 0:57	52%
Schiphol Airport - Brussels – South	1:30	2:35	- 1:05	42%
Rotterdam Centraal - Breda	0:19	0:32	- 0:13	41%
Rotterdam Centraal - Antwerp – Centraal	0:31	1:05	- 0:34	52%
Rotterdam Centraal - Brussels – South	1:08	1:50	- 0:42	38%

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Images and a video of Fyra will be available to view from Tuesday 7 July at 15:00 on www.fyra.com and www.nshispeed.nl/nl/over-ns-hispeed/pers.

About NS Hispeed

NS Hispeed is the brand name for the NS high-speed operation, offering rapid transport to international destinations, and in the future to national destinations. In addition to the new high-speed train, NS Hispeed also operates high-speed trains like Thalys, ICE International, Eurostar and TGV.

About NMBS

NMBS is the national railway company of Belgium that commercially operates national and international passenger and freight transport by rail. It is also responsible for the management and maintenance of rolling stock.

NMBS has 20,000 employees and a turnover of 2.2 billion euros (2008). The company also manages its holdings in companies, such as Eurostar, Thalys, IFB and TRW. NMBS is playing a key role in the development of sustainable transport through high-quality, reliable and market-oriented services.

NS Hispeed and NMBS form part of Railteam, a joint venture between Europe's leading high-speed rail operators. Railteam seamlessly connects the European high-speed lines.