



Media Release

July 4, 2008

VIA RAIL'S EXPERTISE AND KNOW-HOW RECOGNIZED BY SNCF INTERNATIONAL

Cooperation agreement between VIA Rail and SNCF International to promote their know-how in the field of passenger train services

Montreal, July 4, 2008 – VIA Rail Canada announced today the signing of a cooperation agreement with SNCF International, an independent subsidiary of the Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer français (SNCF; the French railway system), designed to promote their know-how in operating and managing existing passenger train services both in North America and elsewhere in the world.

Thanks to this close collaboration, VIA Rail Canada and SNCF International will share their knowledge and experience in order to encourage rail transport, and to commercialize the know-how and long professional and technical traditions of La Groupe SNCF and VIA Rail for the ultimate benefit of passengers. The collaboration between the two companies will take various concrete forms, ranging from joint participation in requests for proposals to technical or operational support in the development of projects, in particular in the fields of customer service, operations, maintenance of rolling stock, training, management and information exchange.

"We are very pleased to be signing this agreement with SNCF International, which has an excellent reputation in the rail sector. This collaboration will allow us to share our respective know-how, and confirms that VIA Rail is a model to which other countries turn concerning questions of passenger rail," declared Paul Côté, VIA's President and CEO.

The Chairman and CEO of SNCF International, Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, for his part affirmed: "VIA Rail has a great deal of expertise in the delivery of passenger train services, and will certainly be an added value to help us open doors to new business opportunities."

"As Canadians mark the 141st anniversary of Confederation, we remember railways helped build our modern nation. I congratulate VIA Rail Canada and SNCF International for this new partnership to share expertise with international railway clients. I expect that they will play a significant role in showcasing the Canadian expertise in today's transportation systems. The signing of this agreement speaks to the historic collaboration between Canada and France," stated the honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities.

SNCF International, a fully-owned subsidiary of SNCF, markets the French rail experience to rail networks and operators the world over. Created in 1999, it intervenes in all steps of development of a rail project, from conception to implementation.

As Canada's national passenger rail service, VIA Rail Canada's mandate is to provide efficient, environmentally sustainable and cost effective passenger transportation services, both in Canada's

busiest corridor and in remote and rural regions of the country. VIA serves more than 450 communities with a network of inter-city, transcontinental and regional trains. Increasingly travellers are turning to train travel as a hassle-free and cost-efficient alternative to congested roads and airports as well as a more environmentally responsible way to travel.

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Media Contacts:

Malcolm Andrews
VIA Rail Canada
514 871-6604
Malcolm_Andrews@viarail.ca

Didier Hérouin
SNCF International
011 33 1 5325 6342
didier.herouin@sncf.fr