



PRESS RELEASE

The Belgian national railway company, SNCB, chooses I.R.I.S. for its electronic document and process management projects

Louvain-la-Neuve, 14 July 2009 - I.R.I.S., a listed company (EURONEXT Brussels: IRI) specialising in Intelligent Document Recognition (IRD), Electronic Document Management (EDM), and complex IT infrastructures (ICT), is pleased to announce that it has been awarded the public procurement contract for the supply of software and services to implement ECM (Enterprise Content Management) solutions at the SNCB (Belgian national railway company).

SNCB-Holding

SNCB-Holding is the ultimate holding company of the SNCB Group, and the guarantor of top-quality service. It fulfils this mission by co-ordinating and supporting the activities of its two subsidiaries, the SNCB (operator) and Infrabel (infrastructure manager) whilst ensuring that their strategies converge and maintaining the unity of the group, with the particular aim of achieving financial stability. One of the missions of SNCB-Holding is to manage the ICT networks for the whole group.

Trains are an important aspect of everyday life in Belgium; more than 180 million travellers have chosen the train as their means of going to work, visiting a European capital, or enjoying their free time and going on holiday. During the same period, the SNCB transported over 60 million tonnes of goods.

These impressive figures represent a responsibility for the SNCB Group: to do everything possible to ensure the satisfaction of every customer.

The Contract

It is a four-year framework agreement for:

- The acquisition of a suite of software applications for ECM projects (digitising of documents, electronic document and process management)

- Services including consultancy, implementation, training and maintenance during the implementation of application projects in the field of ECM.

I.R.I.S. is thus providing the SNCB with a catalogue of products and services in an area of expertise that constitutes the core business of I.R.I.S.

The specification and its execution are the responsibility of ICTRA (ICT for Rail), an entity of SNCB-Holding, which is the total solution partner in the SNCB Group in the field of information systems and telecommunications. ICTRA thus acts as the ECM Centre of Competence and service provider for the entire group.

The proposed services cover a wide spectrum:

- Project management
- Organisational consultancy
- Change management
- Process analysis and design
- Document analysis
- Architecture and design of solutions
- Operations
- Installation
- Software configuration
- Customising and special development
- Tests
- Application migrations
- Integration of solutions
- Documentation

Products

I.R.I.S. based its offer on the following essential software blocks:

- Input Management and Intelligent Document Recognition (IDR):
 - o IRIS Powerscan™: scanning of paper documents and indexing of electronic documents
 - o IRIS Document Server: intelligent compression of digital documents with I.R.I.S.' iHQC™ technology, full-text indexing by OCR and generation of different document formats: PDF, PDF/A, XPS, OpenXML, etc.
 - o IRIS XTract for Documents: automatic processing of invoices, automatic classification
- Enterprise Content Management (ECM) and Process management:
 - o IBM FileNet Content Manager: electronic content management and management of the associated storage spaces
 - o IBM FileNet Business Process Manager: complete business process management suite, from modelling to monitoring, and the production of decision-making dashboards

- IRIS DocCenter: for thesaurus management.
- Output management and other applications (some are offered as options):
 - IBM FileNet Workplace: provides a user-friendly, efficient workspace with a unique point of access to the information and associated processes, as well as being highly integrated with applications such as Office.
 - IBM Content Collector for email: to deal with the growing problem of long-term e-mail archiving and management
 - IBM Lotus eforms: to produce forms to simplify data transport in processes
 - IBM OmniFind: central content indexing platform providing advanced search features
 - Microsoft DRM: for high security of Office files, to provide total confidentiality of data managed by the platform.

Together, these modules can provide an end-to-end ECM solution, from capture to archiving, including the management and implementation of business processes, whilst leveraging the existing SAP platform via complete integration through native connectors.

Partners

In view of the scale of the upcoming projects and the number and skills of the resources that will be required, I.R.I.S. has taken on three high-quality partners who will contribute as sub-contractors: Cegeka, Getronics and IBM.

Giovanni Palmieri, General Manager ICTRA at SNCB-Holding: 'In the context of its many missions, the SNCB Group manages thousands of contracts, title deeds, drawings, and all types of document. That is why electronic management of these documents needs to be implemented, to improve the administration, tracking and preservation of a very large number of files. We were looking for an experienced partner and a catalogue of products, functions, and services to supply to the various business units of the SNCB group. The aim is for ICTRA to be the catalyst for high-quality standard solutions to be offered to these business units. I.R.I.S. presented a very high-quality offer, demonstrating their vast experience of ECM projects and excellent understanding of the needs expressed by the group. The choice of I.R.I.S. is therefore based on both the technologies they offer and the skills that will enable them to deliver quality projects. I have tremendous confidence in I.R.I.S.' ability to help us build solutions that can be successfully deployed in the various departments of the Group, within both SNCB (railway operator) and Infrabel (rail infrastructure), as well as the parent company in charge of common services (SNCB-Holding).'

Yves Alsteens, Sales Manager I.R.I.S. Solutions & Experts: 'We highlighted three aspects that we considered to be fundamental for the success of the SNCB projects:

- The organisation of documents and guiding change management
- Documentary information, controlled glossaries and records retention schedules
- Documentary data processing.

We therefore took a very structuring approach, with a coherent set of documentary methodologies, models and concepts that should generate many economies of scale in terms of the analyses and the tools used.'

Etienne Van de Kerckhove, CEO of I.R.I.S. Group: 'This four-year framework agreement must be one of the biggest electronic document and process management contracts in Europe. The SNCB is the largest employer in Belgium, with more than 60,000 employees. Its document management requirements are significant, spanning many different areas, and we are positive that we will be able to help ICTRA increase the efficiency of many processes and departments in the coming years. Moreover, the financial impact for I.R.I.S. will certainly be noticeable as of 2010.'

Pierre De Muelenaere, President and CEO of I.R.I.S. Group, adds: 'We are happy that we were able to convince the SNCB of the quality of the products and technologies developed by I.R.I.S. for document capture and our expertise in running major document management projects for many administrations and companies in several European companies. We trust that there will soon be thousands of satisfied users of our solutions at the SNCB.'

About I.R.I.S. - www.iriscorporate.com

I.R.I.S.' mission is to increase our customers' productivity and knowledge through helping them better manage their documents, data and information.

I.R.I.S. Products & Technologies develops technologies and products for Intelligent Document Recognition and markets its portfolio on a worldwide basis through strong partnerships.

I.R.I.S. Professional Solutions enables companies and administrations to find in one company the innovative expertise and hi-tech solutions to efficiently manage documents, information flows and IT infrastructure.

In 2008, the revenue of I.R.I.S. Group was 109.325.772 €.

I.R.I.S. has more than 600 employees based in Louvain-la-Neuve, Brussels and Antwerp (Belgium), Orly (France), Windhof (Luxemburg), Amsterdam and Maastricht (The Netherlands), Aachen (Germany), Delray Beach (USA), Hong-Kong (China) and Oslo (Norway).

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