



PRESS RELEASE

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AUTOSTRAD PER L'ITALIA, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SFR, SNCF, STERIA AND THALES DESIGNATED TO BE AWARDED CONTRACT TO ESTABLISH A HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES ECO-TAX SYSTEM

- **A public-private partnership for a 14-year term**
- **Expertise of the best national and European major players brought to bear on a French industrial project**

The French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing designated on January 18th 2011 the Ecomouv' Group, comprised of Autostrade per l'Italia (ASPI), SFR, SNCF, STERIA, THALES, to be awarded the contract for financing, design, construction, operation and maintenance of the heavy goods vehicle eco-tax collection and control system.

The Group and the French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing are now starting the legal and financial closing phase with a view to signing the public-private partnership agreement to make the eco-tax collection and control system available.

One of the most important measures instigated by the "Grenelle de l'Environnement" law, the eco-tax project means that French and foreign heavy goods vehicles over 3.5 tons pay for use of continental France's 15,000 km of national and departmental roads. Each heavy goods vehicle subject to the tax will carry onboard equipment for satellite global positioning and communication of the taxable base data. Controls will be conducted automatically by equipment distributed throughout the network, and manually, by the entitled Control Section.

The Ecomouv' Group brings together partners with the best expertise in their fields, in the realms of road transport infrastructure management; critical, logistical and telecommunications systems; and information systems.

The successful European experiments and in-depth knowledge of technical solutions developed by the various partners is an indispensable guarantee that the innovative electronic tolling system be implemented reliably and on schedule, to establish the eco-tax nationwide. Experimentation since September 2010 on a fleet of test-trucks in France has demonstrated how completely operational the proposed system is.

The Ecomouv' offer also is based on an industrial project to multiple uses and developments of the French territory, through the maintenance and creation of close to 300 jobs in France. The heavy goods vehicle onboard equipment will be made in Châtelleraut.

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Ecomouv' Group members:

- Autostrade per l'Italia (ASPI):

Autostrade per l'Italia has over 50 years' experience in the construction of toll motorways and the management of related services and technologies. A leader in electronic toll collection, with over 7.2 million customers in Italy alone, Autostrade per l'Italia also successfully developed and commissioned the first multi-lane free-flow toll collection system in the world, in Austria. With a workforce of over 10,000, the Autostrade per l'Italia group had revenue of €3.6bn in 2009. Autostrade per l'Italia manages a network totalling over 3,400km in Italy and a further 800km elsewhere in the world, including a major presence in South America and Eastern Europe. www.autostrade.it

- SFR:

The result of a merger between SFR and Neuf Cegetel, SFR Business Team is the leading alternative fixed and mobile operator on the business market in France. Offering end-to-end fixed and high-speed mobile network infrastructures, SFR Business Team has 140,000 customers, including 90% of France's leading CAC 40 firms. With all the latest technologies, 300 'solutions' partners and 2,000 dedicated staff, SFR Business Team is a benchmark operator, capable of releasing the full potential of any business. SFR Business Team has Qualicert certification for all its services and benefits on the international scene from its partnership with Vodafone. www.sfrbusinessteam.fr

- SNCF:

SNCF is one of the world's leading mobility and logistics groups, with revenue in 2010 of some €30bn (est) and an estimated 235,000 employees in 120 countries. A state-owned group with a public-service vocation, the SNCF's mission is to promote a society characterised by greater mobility, respect and solidarity, by establishing green mobility as its growth engine – and as the preferred choice of its customers, passengers, Organising Authorities and freight customers. SNCF is divided into five divisions: management, operations, maintenance and rail infrastructure engineering (SNCF Infra); urban, periurban and regional public commuter transport (SNCF Proximités); rail transport for long-distance and high-speed passengers (SNCF Voyages); goods transport and logistics (SNCF Geodis); and station management and development (Gares&Connexions). www.sncf.com

- STERIA:

Steria is present across the entire information system life cycle, creating the technological environments for the strategic, economic and social transformation of its customers in the public and private sectors. Established in France in 1969, today the Steria Group is present in 16 countries. Steria employs 18,300 people and had revenue of €1.63bn in 2009. 20.3% of its capital is owned by its employees. www.steria.com

- THALES:

Thales is a global technology leader for the Defense & Security and the Aerospace & Transport markets. In 2009, the company generated revenues of €12.9 billion with 68,000 employees in 50 countries. With its 22,500 engineers and researchers, Thales has a unique ability to design, develop and deploy equipment, systems and services that meet the most complex security requirements. Thales has an exceptional international footprint with operations around the world working with customers as local partners. In connection with the eco-tax project, Thales will be responsible for the entire tax control system. www.thalesgroup.com

