



Train firms invited to submit their bids for £2bn Crossrail contract

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Matthew Beard



12 March 2013

Train companies were today given the first chance to bid for the £2 billion contract to run Crossrail trains and stations for the next decade.

Some of Britain's biggest rail companies are expected to compete with European rivals to operate the service on behalf of Transport for London. Firms including Arriva, Stagecoach, First Group and National Express have until next month to submit bids.

TfL announced today that the firm that wins the Crossrail bid will also take over the Liverpool Street to Shenfield route, which is operated by Greater Anglia, from May 2015 — although new lines and trains do not come into operation until 2018.

TfL issued the invitation to bid for the contract via a European tender process in order to comply with competition law.

However, there will be huge pressure on politicians to award the work to British companies because the £15 billion Crossrail project has been promoted as a counter-recessionary means of creating work.

A similar decision faces Crossrail chiefs when they award the contract for the rolling stock.

Crossrail services will be let as a concession by TfL, similar to the concession for London Overground. TfL will stipulate the level of service to be provided, including hours of operation and staffing levels. The successful bidder will run the train services and many of the stations along the route, providing customer service and operations staff.

A route through Canary Wharf, the City and the West End will open in late 2018, while the full route will be up and running by 2019.

Crossrail stations will be fully integrated with London Underground, DLR and National Rail stations, making it easy for passengers to change between services and at least 29 of the 37 stations will have step-free access.

The 72-mile route will run from Maidenhead and Heathrow through 13-mile tunnels below central London to Shenfield and Abbey Wood in the east.

Mayor Boris Johnson said: "We're looking to appoint a world-class operator to run a world-class service that will see Crossrail set the benchmark for railway services in Europe."

Howard Smith, chief operating officer for TfL London Rail, said: "Work on delivering Crossrail, a new rail service linking west to east through the heart of London, continues at a pace, with tunnelling well under way and work at key stations being carried out.

"We are now starting the procurement process to find a truly first-rate operator to run the Crossrail services and provide excellent standards of customer care on behalf of TfL.

"The first services will operate from May 2015 between Liverpool Street and Shenfield with the main Crossrail services connecting Canary Wharf, the City and the West End in late 2018."

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Fancy giving these losers a chance for more loss ,can't we start a new company with proper rules and regulations,which don't dish out large bonus's et al.

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Anonymous 3 days ago

Let the People decide.

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Anonymous 3 days ago

The split of Shenfield services for Crossrail will also be part of new tender for Liverpool Street services so Boris also needs to gain control of services to Chingford and Enfield Town as Overground expansion.

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Anonymous 3 days ago

Erm. This is a Train Operating Company tender, not a train building tender, isn't it? In which case, some of the comments near the top of this piece are a bit redundant.

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0



Anonymous 3 days ago

It's an ES 2 for 1 with both plans to tender for operator of Crossrail train service from 2015 with mention of train order that is also about to get on track!

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+1

ASHLEY BOGLE FRIMPONG 3 days ago

Don't let FCC anywhere near it.

Reply

[2 replies](#)

+2

lizard3 3 days ago

Yes please don't let First Group anywhere near it. Their Worst Late Western services into Paddington are the bane of my life - constantly delayed for no apparent reason and always lung-crushingly overcrowded. I'd even happily pay more to travel with someone, anyone, else.

Reply

+2

txegebara 2 days ago

FCC would find running a Hornby train set challenging. Their underperformance with their current franchise should be a clear enough message that they are not fit to take on any more.

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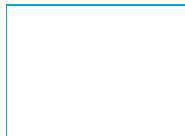
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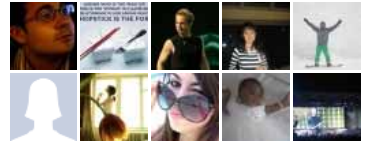
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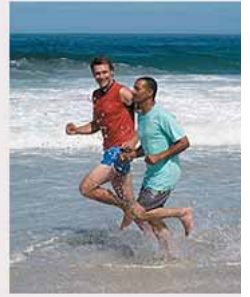
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