

PRAGUE, 8 January 2021

## **First High-Speed Line Will be Designed by a Czech-French-British Consortium**

The documentation for zoning decision and the documentation for the environmental impact assessment (EIA) of High-Speed Line Polabí (HSL Elbe Flatlands) between Praha-Běchovice and Poříčany will be prepared for Správa železnic by the Czech-French-British association of the companies SUDOP PRAHA, Egis Rail and Mott MacDonald.

Správa železnic chose from four offers from international associations. The winning association's offer not only received the most points in qualitative indicators including, for example, the overall professional level, risk management or added value, but also offered the lowest price for the processing of both documentation, amounting to CZK 184.6 million.

Completion of design work at this stage is expected in mid-2022. However, Správa železnic intends depending on the spatial planning processes, in particular the approval of the Update of the Principle of territorial development of the Central Bohemian Region, to use the option, which includes the steps and processes needed to obtain a positive EIA opinion and to obtain the zoning decision itself.

The conclusion of a contract for design work is an important milestone in the preparation of high-speed lines in the Czech Republic, because the processed documentation for zoning decision will design the exact form of the future line and identify specific piece of land needed for its construction. HSL Polabí will become the first section of two future high-speed lines instantly, namely the national backbone connection Praha – Brno and the international connection Praha – Hradec Králové – Wrocław.

The new high-speed line will be connected to the existing railway network at the Praha-Běchovice station and to the Poříčany – Pečky and Sadská – Nymburk lines at the opposite end. In addition, the current Sadská – Nymburk line will undergo significant modernisation. These connections between HSL and today's lines will allow robust use of the new infrastructure before the completion of the larger HSL network. It will be used by almost all long-distance trains from Prague to the east – for example, express trains from Prague in the direction of Kolín and Pardubice or in the direction of Nymburk and Hradec Králové. These trains will free up space for the further development of attractive suburban transport between Prague, Český Brod and Poříčany. The new line will be four-track. The start of construction work is expected in 2025, the start of operation in 2028 – 2029.