

PRAGUE, 8 April 2021

Správa železnic Presented Current State of Preparation of High-Speed Lines in the Czech Republic

Správa železnic presented the current state of preparation of high-speed lines (HSL) in the Czech Republic today. We are currently in the pre-investment phase of the entire program, with the start of construction work on the first pilot sections expected in 2025.

"The second period of preparation, in which we find ourselves, is characterised by submission of documentation for zoning proceedings of individual HSL sections and the approval of completed feasibility studies by the Central Commission of the Ministry of Transport," says Jiří Svoboda, Director General of Správa železnic. As he adds, the first active designing according to the French know-how is taking place at the same time with the first environmental impact assessment. Public consultation on HSL routes with municipalities and citizens will resume as soon as the epidemic situation allows.

"Zoning proceedings for individual HSL sections will follow, ending with the issuance of zoning decisions. We should be able to manage all this by 2023," explains Jiří Svoboda.

Although a key government resolution on the High-Speed Rail Development Program in the Czech Republic was issued in 2017, Správa železnic (then SŽDC) began preparations for high-speed rail already several years earlier. This happened on the basis of the strategic document called the Spatial Development Policy of the Czech Republic, which also included high-speed transport corridors. Relevant zoning and technical studies were also carried out during that period.

The next period, i.e. from 2023, will be marked by the construction proceedings, within which the documentation for building permission will be created and at the same time the property rights settlement with the owners of the affected properties will take place. At the end of the whole process, building permits will be issued for the first HSL pilot sections. Their construction is expected to begin in 2025.

In connection with today's presentation, Správa železnic also launched an updated website to the preparation for the construction of HSL in the Czech Republic. Details of individual routes are available at: spravazeleznic.cz/vrt.

The website also contains an overview of architectural designs for the Terminál Praha východ (Prague East Terminal) in electronic form. These designs came from an open architectural competition organised by Správa železnic last year.