



(English Translation by RDC)

Office of the Secretary of State for Transport

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PRESS RELEASE

Dominique Bussereau announces the creation of a transportation company for the development of rail freight

Dominique Bussereau, Secretary of State for Transport, announced the creation, in the next several weeks, of a transportation company with the objective of promoting the creation of short line freight operations (“opérateurs de fret de proximité”, or OFPs).

This company (a partnership between the national rail infrastructure manager and owner **Réseau Ferré de France [RFF]**, development bank **la Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations [CDC]** and North American short-line company **Railroad Development Corporation [RDC]**) will work with local investors in providing support in railway management; economic development and financing; and operational management of local freight traffic. The company will thus promote initiatives and innovations in support of wagonload traffic and local rail freight transportation.

The Secretary of State for Transport emphasized that several tools have been put in place to support the creation of OFPs and to promote rail freight transportation:

- Legislative and regulatory tools, on one hand: Regulations relative to the organization and regulation of transportation permit greater flexibility for OFPs, which can manage the infrastructure of light density, freight-only lines.
- Tools of support of this activity, on the other hand: A support group created in July 2008 and led by Jacques Chauvineau, who has brought together a diverse group of stakeholders (shippers, regional economic players, logistics and transportation professionals, associations, and institutions). This accompanies the initiators of projects in the domains of logistics, railway management and analysis of the relative markets. It also organizes the sharing of experience and facilitates the exchanges of skills and know-how.