

Press release

109,000 lorries transferred to rail.

As the operator of the rolling highway (Rola), RAIpin has enjoyed a solid performance in the past financial year. Some 109,000 lorries were transported by rail along the Gotthard and Lötschberg axis routes. The Swiss federal government has also renewed its commission for the company to operate the rolling highway for a further five years and thus help the government achieve its traffic transfer target.

The rolling highway's financial performance in 2017 paints a positive picture. With some 109,000 consignments, the scheme just about matched the record it set in 2015, while the number of orders stabilised in comparison to the previous year. With 100,000 lorries transferred to rail on the route between Freiburg im Breisgau (Germany) and Novara (Italy) and 9,000 on the route between Basel and Lugano, the shifted volume has increased by a total of 5.9% year-on-year.

This was for reasons which had been foreseen. While severe delays led to a loss in quality and a resulting fall in capacity utilisation aboard trains early on in the year, this was partly offset over the course of the year. Nevertheless, a continuous rise in network utilisation and an increase in construction work on rail infrastructure has had a major impact on the punctuality of trains. Fierce competition with road traffic (e.g. low fuel prices) also put pressure on the result. Last but not least, the interruption on the rail route near Rastatt (Germany) in August/September also triggered a slight increase in consignment numbers.

The rolling highway's commission was also renewed for a further five years to coincide with the publication of the report on the transfer of traffic by the Swiss Federal Office of Transport (FOT). The team at RAIpin Ltd in charge of the scheme are delighted that the contract has been extended from 2019 to 2023. This will see more than 100,000 lorries continue to cross the Alps by rail every year. It also allows targeted preparations for the future of accompanied Alpine-crossing heavy goods traffic to begin now, with a focus on new loading terminals in Germany and Italy and the development of innovative wagons.

Olten, 19 January 2017

RAIpin Ltd at a glance

Headquartered in Olten, RAIpin Ltd operates the rolling highway (Rola) between Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany, and Novara, Italy, and between Basel and Lugano. Every year, the company transfers more than 100,000 lorries from road to rail. Under the rolling highway system, drivers embark their vehicles onto low-floor trains at the terminals and accompany their loads in a sleeping car. RAIpin's rolling highway service makes a significant contribution to the modal shifting of traffic from road to rail and to safeguarding the sensitive Alpine region.

The shareholders of RAIpin are BLS AG, Hupac SA, SBB Cargo AG and Trenitalia SpA.

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