

FS Italiane will build two high-speed lines in Iran

Development of a test center and staff training

Rome, 12th April 2016

Construction of **two high-speed lines**, development of a **test center** and **staff training**. These are the highlights of the framework cooperation agreement between FS Italiane and RAI (Iranian Railways). The agreement was signed today in Tehran by the CEO of FS Italiane, **Renato Mazzoncini**, and the Deputy Minister of Transport of Iran and Chairman of RAI, **Pour Seyed Aghaei**, in the presence of the Prime Minister of Italy, **Matteo Renzi**, and the President of Iran, **Hassan Rouhani**.

With today's agreement, which follows the *Memorandum of Understanding* signed between the parties on 9 February, FS Italiane confirmed itself at the forefront in the development of Iran's rail network: indeed, FS Italiane (as General Contractor) will provide the design, the development and the testing of the high-speed lines *Tehran-Hamedan* and *Qom-Arak*; Italcertifer, the certification company of the FS Italiane Group, will work instead on the design, the execution and the certification of the Iranian Railways' Test Center, a center to test the infrastructure and the rolling stocks with an advanced equipment.

The agreement also foresees that FS Italiane provides a comprehensive training program for the staff of the Iranian Railways.

The cooperation activities will benefit from export financing advanced by Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (CDP) and the banking system, fully guaranteed by SACE (CDP Group) and, with regard to the interest rate's stabilization, the participation of SIMEST (CDP Group).

"This cooperation agreement - said Renato Mazzoncini, CEO of FS Italiane - confirms, at international level, the high demand for Italian know-how in the railways sector. We are very proud to contribute in a concrete way to the Italy's success around the world: the expansion into foreign markets and the internationalization of our activities, in terms of both infrastructure and European corridors' competitive lines, will be the key points of the business plan we are working on."

Iran's railway infrastructure extends for about 10,000 kilometres, and envisions an extension of the network of up to 25,000 km in 2025; 7,500 kilometres of lines of which are already under construction.