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Argentina: Top Two Bidders For 30-year Roca Railway Concession

by Barbara Khol
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On Sept. 8, government officials reported that two consortia had submitted acceptable bids for the 30-year concession to operate the Roca railway freight and passenger service. Roca links Buenos Aires with Mar del Plata, located 400 km. south of the capital. Under the Tren del Atlantico consortium, Sofrerail (France) and Canarail (Canada) would operate the railroad. Tren del Atlantico offered US$51 million, and plans to invest US$671 million over a 15-year period. Next, the company would employ 808 people, or about 86% of the current work force. Ferrocarril del Atlantico is headed by Argentine companies Sideco and Transporte Terrestre de Pasajeros. Ferrocarril operators would be the Japanese company Jarts and Canada's Vial Rail. The consortium offered to pay US$84 million, invest US$661 million over the next 15 years, and would employ 872 workers. (Source: Agence France-Presse, 09/08/92)

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