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Construction Company Simec Forms Partnership With National Railroad To Build New Intermodal Terminal

by Carlos Navarro

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In early December, the private construction company Sistemas Mexicanos para la Construccion (SIMEC) announced creation of a partnership with the state-run railroad Ferrocarriles Nacionales (FERRONALES), a real estate company, and several trucking companies, to build an intermodal terminal north of Mexico City, at Huehuetoca, Mexico state. According to company spokesman Carlos Perez Castillo, SIMEC will own roughly a 25% share of the terminal. Perez told reporters that construction on the 100-hectare facility, which is expected to cost about US$10 million, will begin in early 1994 and be completed by the end of the year. He said SIMEC will provide the equipment needed for construction, while FERRONALES will lay the new tracks required by the facility. The real estate company which was not identified will provide the land. According to El Financiero daily business newspaper, the intermodal facility is designed to help reduce congestion on roads leading into Mexico City and to encourage increased use of rail traffic. Currently, about 85% of all cargo shipments within Mexico travel by road, compared with only 15% by rail. In a related matter, FERRONALES director Jorge Tamayo told the Chamber of Deputies on Dec. 2 that the railroad expects to handle about 52 million metric tons of cargo in 1994, an increase of 3% from levels anticipated for 1993. (Sources: El Financiero, 11/30/93; La Jornada, 12/03/93; El Financiero International, 12/06/93)

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