



The Bridge Train is ten years old

Fertagus celebrates its birthday with 85,000 passengers a day

- Over 180 million passengers have crossed the Bridge by train
- 20,000 less vehicles on the bridge every day
- 13,000 tons less CO₂ emitted a year

Lisbon, 28 July 2009 – Tomorrow Fertagus, a Barraqueiro Group company, will celebrate its tenth birthday and also record ten successful years following the launch of the Bridge Train. Today the company carries daily an average of 85,000 passengers, who report a high degree of satisfaction (4.3 on a scale of 1 to 5).

Fertagus recently introduced an innovative contactless ticketing system at all its stations that integrates all travel modes including car parking. By transporting over 180 million passengers over the last ten years, the company has contributed to a daily reduction of 20,000 cars on Lisbon's 25th April Bridge and accordingly to a fall in CO₂ emissions of around 13,000 tons a year.

"The last ten years have been very intensive for the entire Fertagus team. We have faced many challenges over this period. From the outset we ran a private rail company according to a business model unknown up to then, under which infrastructure management was split from commercial operations. We have contributed definitely to the establishing of the current business model used in this sector in Portugal", says Cristina Dourado, Managing Director of Fertagus.

Having recorded an operating profit of 27.5 million euros in 2008, three percent up on the previous year, Fertagus is now close to achieving another ambitious target: providing suburban rail passenger services without receiving a public service subsidy – which will be a first in Europe.



“Under the sharing of upside revenue mechanism, which stood at three million euros in 2008, Fertagus has already paid over to the State around nine million euros. By the end of next year this sum is expected to rise to 14 million euros”, explained the company’s CEO.

A book and a photography exhibition

Fertagus’ celebrations include a touring exhibition of photography “10 years on pictures”, which was officially opened at Pragal station and will visit all Fertagus stations by 11 September, and a tomorrow’s launch of the book “10 years, 10 moments”, which reports the most important moments of the company’s history.

Tomorrow will also see staff don a new uniform and passengers will be toasted at a cocktail party in the evening, with musical entertainment at all stations.

About Fertagus

FERTAGUS, a Barraqueiro Group company, won the international public tender to operate the North/South Rail Link, and was awarded the suburban passenger transport operation on the basis of its bid’s quality, in terms of transport interconnections, route times, pricing and financial model. Under the operation agreement Fertagus is responsible for running the rail link, safety and maintenance of the trains and some of the stations (Pragal to Penalva), as well as the sale of North/South Rail Link tickets, plus the recruitment, training and management of train and station staff. FERTAGUS currently serves 14 stations over a distance of around 54km.

For further information contact:

Lift Consulting – 21 466 65 00

Joana Vilaça – joana.vilaca@lift.com.pt – 913184303