



COLAS RAIL

High Speed 1 Contract 570

Client / Consulting Authority:

Union Railways (South)

Date:

2000 - 2003

Project Value:

£220m

Location:

Channel Tunnel to Swanley



Project Highlights

In January 2000, Colas Rail was awarded the Contract 570 to design and supply track, overhead electrification systems and electrical and mechanical systems for Section 2 of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link.

Project Description

The total scope of the first section of the High Speed Link between the Channel Tunnel and London was the construction of a 75km new railway from Ebbsfleet to the Channel Tunnel, and included several tunnels (the longest being 3.2km) and a viaduct over the River Medway (1.26km).

Colas Rail provided the detailed design, procurement and installation of the entire track, catenary and mechanical and electrical work for the line. Colas Rail also took the responsibility of operating the railway and managing the testing and commissioning before handing over to the client a line with

capability of operating Eurostar trains at 300km/hr. In tests prior to the handover, speeds in excess of 330km/h were recorded.

The quantities involved in this contract were themselves a challenge. Construction of the railhead involved 280,000 m³ cut and fill, 14km of track and 51 turnouts. The high speed line itself required 730,000 tonnes of ballast, 159km of track, 262,000 sleepers, 51 turnouts and 214km of catenary wire.

This was a high profile project with considerable public and political interest. The quality of the product remained paramount and was carried out under the self certification of Colas Rail from the design, through procurement and installation and finally with successful testing and commissioning.