



Institut national de recherche
sur les transports et leur sécurité

The Managing Director,



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To whom it may concern

We have the pleasure to confirm France's willingness to host the TRA conference in 2014. This proposal is supported by the two research institutes that we represent and by the French Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and the Sea, in charge of Green Technologies and Climate Change Negotiations.

We are indeed convinced that a number of key factors would make a success of TRA 2014 in France and contribute to anchoring the conference and congress as world class events.

France has been at the forefront of the integration of sustainability issues in its policy and strategy, with the overarching "Grenelle" initiatives and the merger of various ministry departments into a large ministry in 2007.

- Both INRETS and LCPC are key players in European transport research and are committed to the construction of the European Research Area. We are currently involved in more than 30 Framework programme projects for example. Furthermore we are actively supporting the definition of the successor to the current Framework programme through our work in the DETRA project, which is a follow up to the Lyon Declaration that INRETS initiated under the French Presidency in 2008.
- Our two institutes will merge next year and will, under a common structure and strategy, become a leading actor in several fields of European transport research. We will consequently be uniquely positioned to host a true multimodal TRA conference.
- France's candidacy offers a location which is well tested and which shows its potential to attract significant number of visitors year after year. Besides, our two institutes have a proven track record in successfully hosting major conferences. We will open in 2012 our major settlement in the "Cité Descartes", very close to Paris, and the conception of this location, fully dedicated to research, innovation and partnership is quite adapted to host very big scientific and technical conferences. By the way, we did not propose a French candidature for TRA 2012 in due time, because our new settlement will not be available at this date

It is France's intention to reach out towards all components of the triangle of growth in the fields of research, education and innovation, since we are convinced that this is essential to the strengthening of the competitiveness of Europe. In particular we wish to involve stakeholders from industry as well as transport infrastructure owners and managers, in order both to feed

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societal needs into the research steering processes and to facilitate the transfer of research results and their implementation. Our ambition here is to achieve a true “innovation union” between all pillars of societal needs.

To that end we already envision to cooperate with other conference organisers from scientific and industry backgrounds, so that a series of events would take place at coordinated locations and times. That approach at a more adequate format, would enable a larger population of visitors and delegates to join the TRA conference and exhibition and would consequently contribute to our overall ambitions and goals.

As a conclusion, we want to stress that our candidacy hinges on TRA being a true multimodal event. This obviously falls in line with our national commitment to sustainability. It also demonstrates that we are convinced that only an integrated approach inclusive of all surface transport modes is able to address the challenges faced by Europe.

We trust you will support France’s candidacy and we remain at your disposal if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

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Hélène Jacquot-Guimbal,
LCPC, Managing Director