

August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016

## **Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso renew their confidence in SITARAIL**

On Friday July 29, 2016, SITARAIL and the governments of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso officially signed a revised convention of concession for the management and running of the rail network between Abidjan and Kaya via Ouagadougou.

Senior authorities from both countries are thus renewing their confidence in SITARAIL and the Bolloré Group, a historical partner that has managed and operated this rail network for 22 years.

SITARAIL, a concession of Bolloré Railways, manages 1,260 km of railways linking Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso. It has 1,450 employees and each year transports 300,000 passengers and 900,000 tons of freight.

The overhaul of this public-private partnership contract consists primarily in assigning SITARAIL with the responsibility for investment to renew and maintain the network's infrastructure, in addition to a role of operator managing and investing in rolling stock. This significant extension of SITARAIL's responsibilities concerns not only the actual railroad and track structures but also the industrial maintenance workshops and train stations.

Under this new agreement, SITARAIL will push ahead with the complete refurbishing of 852 km of rail track and the renovation of several through stations. The works will help to safely increase traffic speeds, modernize the network and significantly grow transportation capacity. They will start on September 2016.

Eric Melet, Chairman of Bolloré Railways, said: *"The Bolloré Group would like to thank the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso for their confidence. The signing of this new agreement marks a key stage. It is fully in line with the considerable efforts made by the Bolloré Group since the creation of SITARAIL. The attractiveness of railroads, a key facility for regional integration, will be considerably enhanced and enable us to accept new forms of traffic such as iron-ore, the upshot of the sub-region's long-term growth. We are proud to help contribute in this way to economic activity and social links in the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso."*

### **Contact:**

Direction of communication and external relations of Sitarail  
Abidjan (225) 20 20 80 82  
Ouagadougou (226) 25 33 01 67