THE FRENCH RAIL SUPPLY CHAIN NUMBERS

Around 300 companies based in France work in the rail industry. The majority are SMEs. The French government defines the direction of every major project and upgrade. French regions are entrusted with an increasing number of responsibilities related to public transport. As organizational authorities, the French regions define how the project is financed. The regions also provide part of the financing for the network within the scope of the State-Region Project Contracts.

Future investments are planned to take place between 2018 and 2026. Twenty-eight billion euros will be dedicated to renovation of railways; procurement of signaling systems, rolling stock, rolling stock equipment and communicating systems; creation of new railway stations; and maintenance of exiting equipment. Those investments are part of the performance contract signed between the SNCF Réseau and the French Ministry of Transportation.

Because of the increase in train traffic, signaling parts manufacturers must develop precision technical equipment to secure the rail network. There are around ten companies in France that provide signaling parts for the rail industry. It represents 3,000 employees and a turnover of around 610 million euros. Exports represent 35 percent of the activity.

The rolling stock market in France is dominated by European companies but Asian counterparts are catching up. Rolling stock and locomotives are the most important segment in EU trade. There are five rolling stock manufacturers operating in France employing 14,000 and with a turnover of 2.1 billion euros in 2017.

The railway infrastructure segment includes all activities required to create a railway track in its entirety. For high speed and conventional railroads, dedicated freight railway lines, urban transport systems, and private networks for ports and mines, the member companies design, develop, produce and undertake tracking components, equipment for site safety, construction and inspection work, and the construction, maintenance and renewal of tracks. There are 21 companies total in France and a cluster called Mecateam. The companies represent a turnover of 563 billion euros ($644 million). Forty-four percent of that is exports to all five continents. For more information, contact U.S. Embassy France: Office.Paris@Trade.Gov.