



Call for expression of interest

Transnet Limited is calling for expressions of interest (EOI) from parties interested in acquiring the Outeniqua Choo-Tjoe (OCT) steam train service.

The OCT is an iconic heritage steam train service that initially started operating between George and Knysna on a line that was officially opened in 1928. In 2006 severe storms in the Southern Cape caused extensive damage to the George-Knysna railway line, resulting in rail operations being discontinued. The OCT service is now operated between the Outeniqua Transport Museum in George and the Dias Museum complex in Mossel Bay.

Transnet has appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers Corporate Finance (PwC) as its financial advisor to assist with the disposal of the OCT service.

Interested parties are hereby invited to express interest in taking over the management and operation of the OCT steam train service between George and Mossel Bay. The assets used in the operation of the service include steam locomotives, carriages, spare parts and supporting equipment and infrastructure.

It is envisaged that initially the use of the assets will be transferred to the successful private party on a lease-lend basis. Ultimately, subject to heritage legislation and authorisation, full ownership of the assets would be transferred to the private party.

Interested parties should be able to demonstrate that they have the necessary skills and experience to finance, own, operate and manage heritage steam locomotives and rolling stock, or similar heritage and/or tourism assets.

It is anticipated that the private party will pay an access charge to Transnet for the use of the George-Mossel Bay railway line.

A separate call for expressions of interest will be issued regarding the George to Knysna route, whereby proposals from interested parties will be invited.

Interested parties may obtain an information pack which contains information about the OCT, EOI submission requirements, rules, etc. The information pack will only be made available upon signing a confidentiality undertaking. A non-refundable fee of R5 000 is payable by all respondents upon submission of EOI responses. The confidentiality undertaking and information pack can be obtained from PricewaterhouseCoopers by contacting:
Ms Hombisa Mboko on +27 11 797 5915
or by emailing hombisa.mboko@za.pwc.com.

Responses to the EOI must be submitted in the required format electronically before 09:00 Tuesday, 1 December 2009.