



Innovation and Networks Executive Agency

Department C - Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)

AMENDMENT N° 3

TO AGREEMENT No INEA/CEF/TRAN/M2016/1367173

The **Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA)** ("the Agency"), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ("the Commission"), represented for the purposes of signature of this amendment by the Head of Department C of the Agency, Andreas Boschen,

on the one part,

and

State Enterprise "National Railway Infrastructure Company" (NRIC)

Maria Luiza blvd. 110

1233 Sofia

Bulgaria

represented for the purposes of signature of this amendment by Director General, Krasimir Papukchiyski

hereinafter referred to collectively as "the beneficiaries", and individually as "beneficiary" for the purposes of this amendment

on the other part,

Having regard to the above-mentioned grant agreement concluded between the Agency and the beneficiary on 26/10/2017 as amended on 25/07/2018 and 24/10/2018,

Whereas:

- (1) The beneficiary has requested the Agency on 24/09/2020 to amend the above-mentioned grant agreement for the following reason(s): delays in the implementation of the Action due to lengthy procurement procedures led by appeals, court proceedings against a Detailed Development Plan of Plovdiv municipality and Covid-19 situation..
- (2) The measures provided for in this amendment do not affect the award of the Union financial aid.

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

(1) Article 2.2 is replaced by the following article:

"2.2 The action shall run from 15/02/2017 ("the starting date") until 31/12/2023 ("the completion date")."

(2) Article 4.1.1 "Reporting periods" is replaced by the following article:

"4.1.1 Reporting periods

The action is divided into the following reporting periods:

- Reporting period 1 from the starting date of the action to 31 December 2017;
- Reporting period 2 from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018;
- Reporting period 3 from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019;
- Reporting period 4 from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020;
- Reporting period 5 from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021;
- Reporting period 6 from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022;
- Last reporting period from 1 January 2023 to the completion date of the action."

"6.3 Communication details of the beneficiaries

Any communication from the Agency to the beneficiaries shall be sent to the following addresses:

- for State Enterprise "National Railway Infrastructure Company":
Neli Andreeva
Director "Strategic Development and Investment Projects"
Maria Luiza blvd. 110, 1233 Sofia, Bulgaria
E-mail address: n.andreeva@rail-infra.bg"

(3) Annex I shall read as follows:

"ANNEX I

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

ARTICLE I.1 – IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TEN-T NETWORK

The action contributes to the implementation of the:

- the core network
 - Corridor(s): Orient/East-Med
 - Pre-identified section(s) on the core network corridor(s):
 - Vidin - Sofia - Burgas/TR border Sofia - Thessaloniki - Athína/Piraeus

ARTICLE I.2 – LOCATION OF THE ACTION

I.2.1 Member State(s): Bulgaria.

I.2.2 Region(s) (using the NUTS2 nomenclature): Yuzhen tsentralen (BG42).

I.2.3 Third country(ies): not applicable.

ARTICLE I.3 – SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION

The development of Plovdiv railway node is the physical link between the Global project and the other sections of Orient/East-Med Corridor without the implementation of which the required interoperability standards could not be achieved. The main objective of the Action is to facilitate the fulfilment of Bulgaria's engagements regarding the Core Network sections by 2030.

The Action comprises works on the railway lines around Plovdiv, where its individual sections fall within the alignment of two main railway lines towards Burgas and towards Svilengrad (Turkish/Greek border). Its development includes rehabilitation and modernisation of railway tracks, structures, catenary, signalling and telecommunications as well as construction of road overpasses and underpasses replacing the existing level crossings. The selected works will take place in the existing servitude, except for some sections where the borders of the servitude have been left due to changes in geometry and horizontal curves (mainly along the railroad between Plovdiv East Marshalling yard and Krumovo Station) and where some land expropriation is necessary.

The Scope of the Action is to modernise 23.129 km of the double railway section on the Orient-East Med Core Network Corridor.

The start of the section is at km 154+291 (Plovdiv) and the ends of the section is at km 164+841 (Krumovo) and 16+959 (Skutare).

The modernised section will be in line with EU requirements for Core Network Corridors as set by Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013, namely: 22.5 t axle load, possibility of running trains with a length of 740 m, and up to 160 km/h speed for the passenger trains and up to 120 km/h for freight trains.

The Action also covers Plovdiv Passenger Station (PPS), Plovdiv East Marshalling yard (PEMY), Skutare Station, Krumovo Station, and the railway sections PPS – PEMY, PEMY –

Trakia Stop - Skutare Station and PEMY – Krumovo Station, railway infrastructure including track, catenary and signalling and telecommunication .

The total length of the railway track within the node is 23.129 km double railway tracks. Max load is 22.5 t/axle. Max gradient reaches 6,4‰ and the minimum curve radius is 475 m. The entire node is supplied with power (25kV/50Hz) from 2 transformer stations.

The Action aims to achieve modernization of the rail tracks (59 km – total unfolded length), catenary (68 km -total unfolded length) and signalling and communication systems (23 km); refurbishing and strengthening of existing two bridges as well as the construction of new facilities replacing the outdated (draining, ditches, access road etc.) ones or those with insufficient bearing capacity (2 bridges). Installation of noise-proofing facilities is also provided for the urban areas. Existing level crossings will be replaced by over/underpasses (9 – road and pedestrian). Signal locking along the sections between stations will be replaced by auto block system with axle counters without block signals (in the section between stations Plovdiv-Plovdiv Marshalling Yard and in the section between stations Plovdiv Marshalling Yard-Skutare).

New computerized interlocking system will be delivered and installed at Skutare station. Trakia station will be transformed into a stop. New pipe network will be built and new cables will be laid for control and monitoring. New switches (114) with an external locking, new traffic lights with LED modules (at Skutare station), axle counters to control sections of rail track at the stations and along sections between stations will be delivered. The existing ETCS level 1.0 baseline 1 will be upgraded to level 1.0 baseline 2 version 2.3.0d and will be expanded to cover the Skutare station. The balises will be replaced by new ones.

The general Objectives of the Action are:

- Removing the bottlenecks on this section of the railway line;
- Ensuring an optimal level of integration and of interoperability on this railway section in compliance with the EU Regulation No. 1299/2014 and the interoperability EU Directive No. 2008/57/EC;
- Improving and maintaining the quality of infrastructure in terms of safety, security and efficiency;
- Supporting modal split by fostering the use of railway transport.

The specific objective of the Action is the development of Plovdiv railway node by providing modernisation and construction works to railway sections Plovdiv-Plovdiv Marshalling Yard East-Krumovo and Plovdiv Marshalling Yard East-Skutare (including infrastructure in stations) from km 154+291 to km 164+841 (Krumovo) and km 16+959 (Skutare) for a total unfolded length of 59 km.

The modernisation and construction works involves the following railway structures:

- railway superstructure;
- traction and non-traction power supply;
- 2 bridges;
- 7 new road and pedestrian overpasses;
- 2 new road and pedestrian underpasses;
- the elimination of 3 level crossings;
- 5 737 m noise protection barriers.
- Signalling and telecommanding

With the implementation of the Action the concerned railway infrastructure will be in compliance with European standards and policies in the field of railway transport and

environmental protection will be provided; Green House Gas (GHG) will be decreased by reducing the use of road transport in the region of Plovdiv.

The effects of the Action are:

- creation of conditions for sustainable mobility of people and goods within the south-eastern region of the EU;
- reduction of the environmental damage due to road transport by developing the railway network as it is environmentally friendly mode of transport;
- congestion relief on roads and more balanced modal distribution by replacing level crossings, contribution to the achievement of requirements of the Orient/East-Med core network corridor and to strengthening economic growth and social cohesion in the region;
- direct and indirect job-creation in the region.

After the completion of the project compliance with the requirements according to Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network will be achieved.

ARTICLE I.4 – ACTIVITIES

I.4.1 Activities timetable

Activity number	Activity title	Indicative start date	Indicative end date	Milestone number
1	Land acquisition	24/10/2017	30/04/2021	7
2	Design services	15/02/2017	15/04/2021	4, 9
3	Construction works	15/02/2017	20/12/2023	4, 12, 13, 14, 15, 26
4	ERTMS deployment on the node Plovdiv	15/02/2017	20/12/2023	4, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21
5	Supervision	15/02/2017	20/12/2023	2, 3, 8, 11, 23, 24, 25, 26
6	Communication and visibility	15/02/2017	31/12/2023	5
7	Technical Assistance and Project Management	15/02/2017	31/12/2023	1, 6, 10, 22

I.4.2 Activities description

Activity 1: Land acquisition

This activity aims at land acquisition in order to achieve entirely the objectives of the Action. The expropriation is in accordance with the approved Detailed Spatial Plan. The beneficiary of the Action National Railway Infrastructure Company (NRIC) is responsible for the preparation of all required documentation and expropriation of the land under this Activity.

The Activity includes land acquisition that is located at:

- Section from km 15+300 to km 15+800 - part of 8th Main Railway line (direction

Plovdiv-Burgas)

- Section from km 16+900 to km 17+400 - part of 8th Main Railway line (direction Plovdiv-Burgas)

- Section from km 162+300 to km 163+300 (railway section between station Plovdiv Marshalling Yard East and Krumovo) – part of 1st Main Railway line (direction Sofia-Svilengrad – Turkish/Greek border)

- Section from km 9+000 to km 14+900 (railway section between station Trakia and Skutare) – part of secondary Railway line (direction Plovdiv Marshalling Yard-Skutare)

The total area of affected land is about 9.3 ha (from them 1.9 ha are private lands which are subject of purchase. The rest land of 7.4 ha are municipality or public ownership).

It is noted that the costs of purchase of land are eligible in accordance with Article 15 of this Agreement and do not exceed 10 % of the total eligible costs of the action.

Expected deliveries for Activity 1 include:

- Decision of the Council of Ministers approving the transfer of ownership of the land plots.
- Expropriation decisions for the private land

Activity 2: Design services

The activity covers the technical design and all necessary documents for issuing of building permits by the contractor for design and construction works covering the railway sections Plovdiv-Plovdiv Marshalling Yard East-Krumovo and Plovdiv Marshalling Yard East-Skutare

Issuing of Building permits is obligation of the Consultant who will perform Compliance assessment and construction supervision during the design and construction works (sub-activity 5.1)

Deliverable of Activity 2 is:

- Approved Technical design by NRIC for issuing the Building permits by Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works.

Activity 3: Construction works

The construction works can only start once the necessary building permits have been obtained. The issuance of building permits is not part of this Activity and is an obligation of the contractor who will perform the "Compliance assessment and construction supervision during the design and construction works", included under sub-activity 5.1 of this Grant Agreement.

Once the building permit is obtained, all the constructions works can start along the railway sections Plovdiv-Plovdiv Marshalling Yard East-Krumovo and Plovdiv Marshalling Yard East-Skutare (including infrastructure in stations) from km 154+291 to km 164+841 (Krumovo) and km 16+959 (Skutare) for a total unfolded length of 59 km.

The construction involves the following railway structures:

- railway superstructure;
- traction and non-traction power supply;

- 2 bridges;
- 7 new road and pedestrian overpasses
- 2 new road and pedestrian underpasses;
- the elimination of 3 level crossings;
- 5 737 m noise protection barriers.
- Signalling and telecommanding

Sub-activity 3.1: Modernisation of the railway line and electrification

This sub-activity includes the following works on track:

- Modernization of 23 km long double track line (59 km unfolded length) along the railway section from km 154+291 to km 164+841 (Krumovo) and km 16+959 (Skutare), including infrastructure in stations, corresponding to the Technical Specifications for Interoperability (TSI) requirements;
- Installation of new overhead contact line AC 1x25 kV/50 Hz and electric Power supply equipment for up to 160 km/h speed purposes for a total length of 68 km from km 154+291 to km 164+841 (Krumovo) and km 16+959 (Skutare).

Sub-activity 3.2: Level crossings removal, new road overpasses/underpasses and pedestrian overpasses/underpasses

The Sub-activity includes:

- replacing of three level crossings with crossings on two levels as follows:
 - road overpass at km 15+623 (between stations Trakia-Skutare) – replacing existing level crossing at km 15+108;
 - road overpass at km 17+008 (at Skutare station) - replacing existing level crossing at km 17+008;
 - road overpass at km 157+680 (between stations Plovdiv-Plovdiv Marshalling Yard East) - replacing existing level crossing at km 157+653.

Additionally, 4 new pedestrian overpasses will be built as follows:

- new pedestrian overpass at km 16+050 (Skutare);
- new pedestrian overpass at km 154+350 (Plovdiv);
- new pedestrian overpass at km 154+825 (Plovdiv);
- new pedestrian overpass at km 156+093 (Plovdiv);

Moreover, one new road underpass and one new pedestrian underpass will be constructed:

- new road underpass at km 155+440 (Plovdiv).
- new pedestrian underpass at km 7+767 (Trakia);

Sub-activity 3.3: Rehabilitation of bridges and installation of noise protection barriers

This sub-activity includes the rehabilitation of 2 existing railway bridges at the following locations:

- existing bridge at km 9+996 (between Trakia and Skutare);
- existing bridge at km 14+587 (between Trakia and Skutare).

Moreover, in this sub-activity 5 737 m of noise protection barriers will be established in the Plovdiv railway station, along the section between the Plovdiv Marshalling yard and Trakia, in Trakia railway station, along the section between the railway stations and Skutare and in Skutare railway station, according to recommendations for lengths and adjusted places provided by the technical design.

Sub-activity 3.4: Signalling and telecommanding

In this sub-activity the same contractor for construction works will be appointed for the implementation of Management systems of railway traffic as follows:

- Installation of a Computerized Electronic Interlocking System in station Skutare and modernization of the Interlocking systems in PPS and PEMY;
- Replacement of point machines, included 114 switches, signalling cables, rehabilitation of signals, implementation of LED signals in station Skutare;
- Replacement of the interstation locking of PPS - PEMY and PEMY – Skutare sections by auto-block system with axle counters without block signals;
- Installation of new point machine heating;
- Installation of new station area lighting;

The signalling and telecommanding works will cover 23km from km 154+291 to km 164+841(Krumovo) and km 16+959 (Skutare).

Deliverables of Activity 3 are:

- Modernised 23.129 km long double track line (59 km unfolded length) and supporting infrastructure along the railway section from km 154+291 to km 164+841 (Krumovo) and to km 16+959 (Skutare), including infrastructure in stations, corresponding to the TSI requirements, ensuring the passenger trains speed up to of 160 km/h and freight trains up to 120 km/h,
- Replaced 3 road's level crossings;
- Constructed 7 new road/pedestrian overpasses (out of which 3 are the result of the elimination of the level crossing);
- Constructed 2 new road/pedestrian underpasses;
- 2 existing bridges rehabilitated;
- Noise protection barriers, with total length 5 737 built.
- Modernised point machines heating and station area lighting, rehabilitated signals and traffic lights in stations;
- Adaptation of station interlocking in stations;
- New computerized interlocking system at Skutare station;
- Replacement of point machines (including 114 switches), signalling cables, rehabilitation of signals, implementation of LED signals in station Skutare
- Installation of auto-block system with axle counters in the sections between stations.

Activity 4: ERTMS deployment on the node Plovdiv

The activity covers the upgrade of ERTMS from ERTMS Level 1, Baseline 1 to Level 1 Baseline 2 (set #2) on 23 km long, double-track section between Plovdiv - Plovdiv MY -

Skutare and Plovdiv MY - Krumovo, which is part of the Orient East-Med Core Network Corridor.

The GSM-R component is installed (Plovdiv - Plovdiv MY - Trakia and Plovdiv MY - Krumovo) or will be installed within other projects and own resources by Beneficiary.

To guarantee interoperability and to avoid exported constraints from track to train, this Action implements national values for braking curves (use of packet 203 as described in Annex A of Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/919).

Deliverables of the activity 4 shall cover the authorisation procedure documents as follows:

1. Engineering rules and operational test scenarios in line with the definition set out in chapter 6 of Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/919;
2. List of interoperability risks and respective mitigation measures;
3. Information regarding tests results (test report including operational scenarios) in line with the latest applicable technical specification for interoperability, performed with on-board units provided by at least one different supplier to the one in charge of the equipment of the line. The on-board units used for tests shall be compliant with the applicable technical specification for interoperability;
4. EC declaration of conformity for each interoperability constituent relevant for ERTMS issued by the supplier or the supplier's authorised representative established within the Union, including the certificate of conformity from a notified conformity assessment body;
5. EC declaration of verification of the subsystem issued by the applicant for each Control Command Signalling subsystem installed including the EC certificate of verification of subsystem from a Notified Body and the safety assessment report following the applicable EU legislation. The additional technical compatibility details related to deviations and added functions of the subsystem shall be provided in line with the European Union Agency for Railways guideline;
6. Copy of an application for an authorisation for placing the Control Command Signalling trackside subsystem in service or the authorisation in case available by the time the final payment claim is due.

Activity 5: Supervision

This Activity aims at 3 different types of supervision during the construction works:

- Compliance assessment of technical design and technical supervision of the construction works,
- Detailed author design supervision during the construction works and
- Interoperability compliance supervision.

All 3 types of the supervision are compulsory elements according to the Bulgarian Law.

This Activity will be implemented through 2 open tender procedures following the EU public procurement law.

This Activity is split into 3 sub-activities to separate different types of the supervision.

Sub-activity 5.1: Compliance assessment and construction supervision during the design and construction works

This Activity will include the technical supervision during the construction works which is performed in accordance with the Spatial Development Act of Bulgaria (SDA). An external licensed consultant performing the following tasks:

Control of the construction works and issuance of acts and protocols during construction (under Ordinance No. 3 with the SDA); control of products used in the construction; monitoring health and safety requirements during construction; prepare a design assessment report for compliance of the construction design, in accordance with SDA; preparation of site technical passport; assessment of the monthly statements and invoices for the execution submitted by the contractors; entering the facility into operation for commissioning of the construction; preparation of the Final report of the technical supervision, report on the results of operations during the period of reporting defects.

Sub-activity 5.2: Design author supervision during construction works

The objective of this sub-activity is performing author supervision during construction works, according to Art. 162 of SDA for 1 construction contract. Provision of author supervision during construction works is a necessary activity under the provisions of the (SDA). Railway lines are categorized as first category construction works according SDA. Author supervision in all parts of the project is mandatory for all constructions from first to fifth category, according to Art. 162, paragraph 2 of SDA. The Designer who has prepared the technical design based on Art. 162 of SDA shall provide author supervision during works.

The objective of this Activity is to perform author supervision during construction works, according to Art. 162 of SDA for 1 construction contract.

Sub-activity 5.3: Interoperability assessments

This sub-activity includes:

- European Union verification and assessment of compliance with Technical Specifications for Interoperability by a Notified Body under Directive No. 2008/57 / EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 on the interoperability of the railway system within the Community, Directive 2014/106 / EC [42] of 5 December 2014 amending Annexes V and VI Directive 2008/57/ EC of the European Parliament and the Council on the interoperability of the railway system within the Community and in accordance with the requirements of the Railway Transport Act and Regulation No 57 of 9.06.2004 in Bulgaria to achieve interoperability of the national railway system with the railway system within the European Union;
- European Union verification and compliance assessment in terms of the open questions in the applicable TSI with the Commission Recommendation 2014/897 / EC [59] of 5 December 2014, issues of commissioning and use of structural subsystems and vehicles in accordance with Directives 2008/57 / EC and 2004/49 / EC of the European Parliament and the Council (DV29bis), repealing Recommendation 2011/217 / EU and national safety and technical rules by an Evaluator of the compliance of a subsystem or part thereof with the national safety rules or technically, according to the Bulgarian legislation;
- Independent assessment under Art. 6 of Regulation (EC) No. 402/2013 on the adoption of a common safety method on the determination and assessment of risk with respect to risk identification and assessment for the entire railway sections from km 154+291

to km 164+841 (Krumovo) and 16+959 (Skutare), including stations.

Expected deliverables for Activity 5 are:

Deliverables of the activity shall cover the authorisation procedure documents as follows:

1. EC certificate of verification of subsystem(s) from a Notified Body/ Designated Body and the safety assessment report. The EC certificate of verification shall be in line with Directive 2008/57/EC.

Moreover the following deliverables are included:

- Prepared Conformity assessment report of the design with essential requirements for construction according SDA, submitted at Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works;
- Issued Building permits by Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works;
- Implemented design and construction works supervision and all related controls in accordance with the national legislation for the whole project by the Contractor;
- Obtained authorization to operate the infrastructure in line with national legislation by the National Construction Control Department;
- Prepared site technical passport in line with Bulgarian legal framework. The technical passport contains terms for execution of repairs and data for all certificates issued for the construction project.

Activity 6: Communication and visibility

This Activity covers the communication and dissemination activities and the necessary publicity measures. The plans for information and publicity of the project will be approved and supervised by the beneficiary.

The scope of this activity under this project includes:

- Preparation and approval of a Communication action plan;
- Design, supply and installation of minimum 3 billboards at stations Plovdiv (around km 155+321), station Skutare (around km 15+940) and station Krumovo (around km 163+746);
- Conducting two information and publicity events promoting the project: at the start of the construction period and after completion of the construction process;
- Preparation of brochures aiming to promote the project (1000 copies). The brochures will be necessary for the above mentioned two publicity events;
- Preparation of one video for public awareness and promotion of the project. In the future, these video will be used further for project results related activities and media campaigns.

Expected deliverables for Activity 6 include:

- Communication action plan approved by the Project management board
- Minimum 3 installed billboards
- 2 events organised
- 1000 brochures published
- one video prepared

Activity 7: Technical Assistance and Project Management

This activity includes the Archaeological investigations and monitoring during the construction works as well as the necessary project management of the Action.

Sub-activity 7.1: Archaeological Investigations and monitoring during construction works

The area of the Action is rich of historical fields and could have many sites for archaeological monitoring and investigation. Therefore, during the project implementation, in areas where there is an evidence of archaeological sites, preliminary archaeological studies will be performed to determine whether these archaeological sites will be affected or disturbed. The archaeological sites discovered during these studies, the rescue excavations conducted prior to the commencement of construction and during construction works are monitored by archaeologists.

The scope of the archaeological monitoring during the construction consists of monitoring by archaeologists over archaeological sites discovered along the track of the railway sections, as follows:

- Section from km 160+500 to km 160+700 – along 1st Main railway line
- Section from km 161+600 to km 161+800 - along 1st Main railway line
- Section from km 5+200 to km 5+600 – along 85th secondary railway line
- Section from km 6+400 to km 7+600 – along 85th secondary railway line
- Section from km 11+400 to km 12+800 – along 85th secondary railway line

This Sub-activity will be implemented through an open tender procedure, following the EU public procurement law.

Sub-activity 7.2: Project Management

This Sub-activity covers the management and coordination of the Action. The Project Management Implementation Unit (PMIU) is established in the National Railway Infrastructure Company (NRIC) and it will be responsible for the project management and coordination, tendering procedures, financial management, monitoring, internal quality control, reporting.

The PMIU consists of internal experts who will work full time throughout the project duration and will report their working time by means of reports. The PMIU team will be supported with specific experience by the relevant departments of NRIC and with external contractors to be contracted following the EU public procurement law.

The beneficiary (NRIC) and Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications (MTITC) have a bilateral system for the management and implementation of projects financed by the EU, which will also apply to the Action:

The Coordination of Programmes and Projects Directorate within the Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications (MTITC) will be responsible for ensuring the efficiency and correctness, as a competent body of the Member State. The Ministry will be responsible for certification of Action Status Reports to certify that the reports are full, reliable and true within the implementation of operations co-financed by the CEF.

The management and control is performed by the NRIC's Project management board (PMB). This board consists of the Deputy Director General "Strategy and Administration", the Deputy Director General "Operation", the Director of the Directorate "Strategic Development and Investment Projects" and all the Heads of the PMIU. The main responsibility of the board

is setting out strategic objectives, planning, organizing, leading and controlling the implementation of the Action at the highest level in NRIC.

Expected deliverables for this Activity are:

- Archaeological monitoring and investigation reports, approved by NRIC (in case of archaeological findings by the Ministry of Culture).
- Project management plan is approved by the Project management board (PMB) of NRIC.

ARTICLE I.5 – MILESTONES AND MEANS OF VERIFICATION

Milestone number	Milestone description	Indicative completion date	Means of verification
1	Preparation of a Report of Archaeological investigations (Activity 7)	30/05/2017	Accepted Report of Archaeological investigations
2	Signing of contract for compliance assessment and construction supervision (Activity 5)	10/09/2020	Signed contract for compliance assessment and construction supervision
3	Signing of contract for interoperability assessment (Activity 5)	10/09/2020	Signed contract for interoperability assessment
4	Signing of Design and Build contract that includes ERTMS design and deployment (Activity 2)	23/07/2020	Signed contract for design and build
5	Preparation of Communication Plan (Activity 6)	30/07/2018	Approved Communication Plan
6	Preparation of Project management plan (Activity 7)	13/10/2017	Approved Project Management Plan by Council for Project Management in NRIC
7	Land acquisition completion (Activity 1)	30/04/2021	Payment Order and Property Management Act
8	Compliance Assessment Report (Activity 5)	10/05/2021	Approved Compliance Assessment report
9	Approval of Technical Design (Activity 2)	26/03/2021	Approved Technical design
10	Signing a contract for Archaeological monitoring during construction (Activity 7)	20/07/2021	Signed contract for Archaeological monitoring during construction
11	Issue of Building Permit (Activity 5)	30/06/2021	Issued Building permit
12	Start of works modernisation of the railway line and electrification (Activity 3)	20/07/2021	Act for working start, issued by the designated Engineer
13	Start of works level crossings removal, new road overpasses/underpasses and pedestrian overpasses/underpasses (Activity 3)	20/07/2021	Act for working start, issued by the designated Engineer
14	Start of works rehabilitation of bridges and installation of noise protection barriers (Activity 3)	20/07/2021	Act for working start, issued by the designated Engineer
15	Start of of works on signalling and telecommanding (Activity 3)	20/07/2021	Act for working start, issued by the designated Engineer
16	Start of the system design on ERTMS (Activity 4)	30/03/2021	Confirmation from the

			Beneficiary
17	Interoperability Constituents conformity for design of ERTMS (Activity 4)	20/07/2021	EC declaration of conformity for the Interoperability Constituents and EC certificates
18	ERTMS deployment on the node Plovdiv launched (Activity 4)	01/10/2021	Confirmation from the Beneficiary
19	ERTMS Subsystem verification of the node Plovdiv (Activity 4)	20/11/2023	EC declaration of verification of the subsystem and EC certificates
20	Operational tests description and results on the node Plovdiv completed (Activity 4)	10/08/2023	Test description and report
21	Authorisation of the node Plovdiv by a competent authority (Activity 4)	20/12/2023	Authorisation requested
22	Preparation of a Report on Archaeological monitoring during construction works (Activity 7.1)	20/09/2023	Approved Report on Archaeological monitoring during construction works
23	Issue of EC certificate of verification of the subsystems(Activity 5)	20/11/2023	Issued Certificate of verification of the subsystems
24	Issue of Use permit according to the Bulgarian Spatial Development Act (Activity 5)	20/10/2023	Issued Use permit
25	Preparation of Final report as per art. 168 of SDA (Activity 5)	10/10/2023	Approved Final report as per art. 168 of SDA
26	Reception of works (Activity 3)	20/12/2023	Accepted completion report of the Supervisor

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(4) Table 2 of Annex III "Estimated budget of the Action" is replaced by the following table:

Table 2: Indicative breakdown per activity of estimated eligible costs of the action (EUR)

Activities	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
ELIGIBLE DIRECT COSTS								
Activity 1	0	0	0	40,044	0	0	0	40,044
Activity 2	3,246	1,732	319	1,500,000	1,419,845	0	0	2,925,142
Activity 3	0	0	0	10,000,000	30,855,023	29,855,023	22,855,023	93,565,069
Activity 4	0	0	0	140,000	291,508	291,508	291,508	1,014,524
Activity 5	0	0	0	650,000	919,623	1,064,670	1,074,580	3,708,873
Activity 6	0	0	0	3,068	4,090	4,090	4,091	15,339
Activity 7	14,417	125,502	95,199	330,000	535,590	535,590	571,945	2,208,243
TOTAL ELIGIBLE DIRECT COSTS	17,663	127,234	95,518	12,663,112	34,025,679	31,750,881	24,797,147	103,477,234
Annual instalments of maximum contribution of CEF	123,162.45	0	81,190.3	10,763,645.2	28,921,827.15	26,988,248.85	21,077,574.95	87,955,648.9

"

Article 2

All the other provisions of the grant agreement shall remain unchanged.

Article 3

The present amendment shall form an integral part of the grant agreement and it shall enter into force on the date on which it is signed by the last party. It shall take effect on 15/12/2020.

SIGNATURES

For the beneficiary State Enterprise
"National Railway Infrastructure
Company"
Krasimir Papukchiyski

For the Agency
Andreas Boschen

Done at Sofia, on

Done at Brussels, on

In duplicate in English.