



**Opening of the Ceneri Base Tunnel
and completion of the New Rail Link through
the Alps (NRLA)**

Background

The opening of the Ceneri Base Tunnel on 4 September 2020 marks the completion of the New Rail Link through the Alps (NRLA), which forms the core of Europe's main north-south freight route extending from Rotterdam to Genoa.

Following on from the Lötschberg and Gotthard base tunnels, this is the last piece of the jigsaw puzzle to complete the flat-track rail link through the Alps.

It is not only one of the largest Swiss construction projects in history, but also a pioneering connecting structure at the heart of Europe and a milestone in European rail transport.



Global key messages

1. After the Lötschberg and Gotthard base tunnels, the opening of the Ceneri Base Tunnel will complete the Swiss construction project of the century – the New Rail Link through the Alps (NRLA).
2. The NRLA will form the core of the most important rail freight corridor from the North Sea to the Mediterranean, and Switzerland – at the very heart of Europe – is proud to be an integral part of the continent's modern transport infrastructure.
3. The flat-track rail link through the Alps is a masterpiece of engineering 'made in Switzerland'.
4. With the NRLA Switzerland is making a substantial contribution to European transport policy with more trains through the Alps, shorter journey times and higher quality in passenger and freight transport.
5. The NRLA underpins the policy of shifting transalpine traffic from road to rail and makes a substantial contribution to environmentally friendly handling of the flow of goods across Europe.
6. The NRLA is a pioneering connecting structure at the heart of Europe and a milestone in European rail transport.



Global key messages (Deutsch)

1. Die Eröffnung des Ceneri-Basistunnels vervollständigt nach dem Lötschberg- und dem Gotthard-Basistunnel das Schweizer Jahrhundertbauwerk NEAT, die Neue Eisenbahn-Alpentransversale.
2. Die Schweiz im Herzen Europas ist stolz, mit dem Kernstück des wichtigsten Schienengüterverkehrskorridors von der Nordsee ans Mittelmeer, Teil der modernen europäischen Verkehrsinfrastruktur zu sein.
3. Die NEAT ist ein Meisterwerk der Ingenieurskunst made in Switzerland.
4. Mit der NEAT leistet die Schweiz einen substantiellen Beitrag zur europäischen Verkehrspolitik mit mehr Zügen durch die Alpen, kürzeren Fahrzeiten sowie höherer Qualität im Personen- und Güterverkehr.
5. Die NEAT stärkt die Verlagerungspolitik von alpenquerendem Verkehr von der Strasse auf die Schiene und leistet einen substantiellen Beitrag zur umweltfreundlichen Abwicklung der europaweiten Warenströme.
6. Die NEAT ist ein zukunftsweisendes und verbindendes Bauwerk im Herzen Europas und ein Meilenstein im europäischen Schienenverkehr.

Global key messages (Français)

1. L'ouverture du tunnel de base du Ceneri, après ceux du Lötschberg et du Saint-Gothard, marque la fin du gigantesque chantier suisse qui a conduit à la construction de la nouvelle ligne ferroviaire à travers les Alpes (NLFA).
2. Située au cœur de l'Europe, la Suisse est fière d'héberger cet ouvrage, qui constitue la pièce maîtresse du principal corridor européen de fret ferroviaire reliant la mer du Nord à la mer Méditerranée, et de faire ainsi partie du réseau moderne d'infrastructures de transport européen.
3. La ligne de plaine à travers les Alpes est un chef-d'œuvre de génie civil, made in Switzerland.
4. En construisant la NLFA, la Suisse apporte une contribution substantielle à la politique européenne des transports et la nouvelle infrastructure permet en effet d'augmenter le nombre de trains traversant les Alpes, de réduire les temps de parcours et d'assurer une offre de meilleure qualité pour le trafic voyageurs et le trafic marchandises.
5. La NLFA donne un nouvel élan à la politique de transfert du trafic transalpin de la route au rail et contribue de manière significative à une gestion durable des flux de marchandises en Europe.
6. La NLFA représente un ouvrage de construction novateur et fédérateur au cœur de l'Europe et constitue une étape importante pour le développement du transport ferroviaire européen.

Global key messages (Italiano)

1. Dopo le Gallerie di base del Lötschberg e del San Gottardo, l'apertura della Galleria di base del Ceneri completa l'opera ingegneristica svizzera più importante del secolo: la NFTA, la ferrovia di pianura attraverso le Alpi.
2. Dalla sua posizione nel cuore dell'Europa la Svizzera è orgogliosa di far parte delle moderne infrastrutture di trasporto europee con il pezzo fondamentale del più importante corridoio ferroviario per il trasporto merci dal Mare del Nord al Mediterraneo.
3. La ferrovia di pianura attraverso le Alpi è un capolavoro dell'arte ingegneristica made in Switzerland.
4. Con la NFTA la Svizzera dà un contributo sostanziale alla politica dei trasporti europea con più treni attraverso le Alpi, tempi di percorrenza più brevi e un trasporto passeggeri e merci di maggiore qualità.
5. La NFTA rafforza la politica di trasferimento del traffico transalpino dalla strada alla ferrovia e contribuisce in modo sostanziale alla gestione ecosostenibile del flusso di merci sul continente europeo.
6. La NFTA è una straordinaria opera ingegneristica e di collegamento nel cuore dell'Europa e una pietra miliare nel trasporto ferroviario europeo.

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The Swiss construction project of the century – linking northern and southern Europe

Economics



138 years after the completion of the legendary Gotthard railway tunnel – already a masterpiece in 1882 – a new milestone has been reached on the historic Gotthard route. The opening of the Ceneri Base Tunnel on 4 September 2020 marks the completion of the construction project of the century – the New Rail Link through the Alps (NRLA), which forms the core of Europe's main north-south freight route extending from Rotterdam to Genoa. Following on from the Lötschberg and Gotthard base tunnels, this is the last piece of the jigsaw puzzle to complete the flat-track rail link through the Alps.



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The Alps have always been a topographical obstacle and crossing them demands innovative solutions. This challenge has constantly spurred Switzerland on to achieve ever more technological breakthroughs. Switzerland is situated at the heart of Europe, right in the middle of the 2,500km-long rail freight corridor known as the Rhine-Alpine corridor, which links the North Sea to the Mediterranean. In order to provide more efficient transit routes between north and south, Switzerland has invested significant resources in building three new base tunnels through the Alps as well as additional connecting lines: the overall project is known as the New Rail Link through the Alps, or NRLA for short. Three new tunnels form the core elements of the NRLA: the 34.6km Lötschberg Base Tunnel, the 57.1km Gotthard Base Tunnel (the world's longest railway tunnel) and the 15.4km Ceneri Base Tunnel, which completes the Gotthard route.



Switzerland.

Infographic

Connecting North and South

At one glance: Some important facts and figures about the New Rail Link through the Alps.

