

Chemoil : SBB Cargo & Transportol go logistics

Autor(en): **Hoekstra, George M.**

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SBB Loco no.460-079-07 in the new livery of Chemoil Logistics

Photo. ©Chemoil Basel

It has been the aim of SBB Cargo to increase the rail-based share in the transportation of chemicals and mineral oils in Switzerland from 46% today to 55% in the near future. As many of the firms that trade in these substances do not want to own the special vehicles needed to transport these often volatile goods (and thus have the responsibility for maintaining the vehicles to comply with the very strict regulations), many have turned to specialised logistic operators. Many of these, though, for various reasons opt for road transport. In order to level the playing fields, SBB Cargo has decided to join the logistic operators and provide the chemical and petrochemical

industry with a “one stop shop” for all their transportation needs within Europe.

SBB Cargo, as a railway operator, knows all about running freight trains. However, the special wagons have always been the domain of large specialised fleet owners, who rented or leased them to shippers or the railway companies. SBB Cargo thus lacks experience in this field. The logical conclusion therefore is to form a partnership with a company which does have this knowledge. Transpetrol of Hamburg, Germany fits this bill perfectly. Transpetrol is part of the German “VTG-Lehnkering” Group, probably best known to us for its logo on the tank wagons it rents out. At the same time it

is also a major logistics operator, involved in fuel depots, inland waterways and container transport. Minority shareholders in Transpetrol include DB Cargo and Kühne & Nagel. Until now its main areas of operation have been Germany, the Benelux countries, Austria and Eastern Europe. SBB Cargo, thanks to their alliance with Italian FS, will add southern Europe to make up a major operating area. At the moment, Chemoil Logistics AG employs 11 people in Basle, offering all the logistics, transport and

tracking, as well as customs clearances needed for the transport of chemical products, liquid gasses, mineral oils, bulk and powdered goods.

To advertise this new service what better medium could be found than one of SBB Cargo's own locomotives?! No sooner said than done: Loco 460 079-7 is now proudly sporting its new livery to coincide with the official launching of the new company on the 7th of October 1999.

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