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RAIL EUROPE LAUNCHES ENHANCED TRAVEL AGENT BOOKING SITE ADDING AMTRAK USA PASSENGER RAIL BOOKING CAPABILITY

State Of The Art Online Functionality Offers Best-Ever Self Booking Travel Experience

For Immediate Release: White Plains, NY – September 22, 2009. Rail Europe, already the leading distributor of European rail products in North America, is proud to announce an upgraded travel agent booking site, **agent.raileurope.com** that now includes Amtrak USA Passenger Rail products in addition to the broad range of European rail passes and tickets previously available on the site.

With Rail Europe's 75 years of experience selling European rail products, the enhanced website offers dynamic new features that allow travel agents to book train tickets in Europe & North America, explore detailed train and train station information, as well as access order history status and easily view agent commissions.

Rail Europe's President and CEO, Frédéric Langlois states "In response to the major resurgence in popularity that train travel is experiencing, we recognized the need to offer sophisticated online booking technology. Our new website provides travel agents the tools to easily and efficiently research, plan and book European and American rail vacations for their clients. Furthermore, we are thrilled to offer access to the American train market through our new partnership with Amtrak."

"The ability to reach rail centric travel agents through Rail Europe is vital to increasing the number of international passengers on board Amtrak trains," said Emmett Fremaux, Amtrak's vice president of marketing and product management. "We welcome the opportunity to work with Rail Europe to offer our products to even more travelers."

The addition of the new Amtrak booking function allows agents who offer rail products, one stop shopping for both domestic and European route ticketing, thanks to Rail Europe's fast, easy and efficient online booking process. Booking functions on **agent.raileurope.com** allow for planning rail travel itineraries throughout America, in all classes of service. Amtrak tickets can be printed and picked up from any Quik-Trak, Amtrak's self-service ticketing kiosks located in many stations across the U.S. In addition, Rail Europe will offer the USA Rail Pass which has a variety of options to provide travelers with significant savings on train travel.

Amtrak operates a nationwide rail network, serving more than 500 destinations in 46 states on over 21,000 miles of routes. Some of Amtrak's most well-known trains include the *Acela Express* (Washington, DC – New York – Boston), the *Auto Train* (Lorton, Va. – Sanford, Fla.), the *California Zephyr* (Chicago – Denver – San Francisco Bay area), and the *Coast Starlight* (Seattle – Los Angeles). Amtrak's Northeast Corridor is the busiest railroad in North America, with more than 2,600 trains operating each day. The *Acela Express* is the fastest train in North America, with a top speed of 150mph, and two classes of service: First and Business Class. Food service is available on most Amtrak trains with passengers on long distance trains enjoying sit-down meals in a dining car.

To promote their new partnership with Amtrak and in order to encourage agents to become familiar with the new site and begin booking online on the improved agent.raileurope.com, the company plans to launch a booking incentive offering agents who make their first online booking of over \$250, a \$10 amazon.com gift card. These agents will then be entered to win a ride on the Rail Europe Inc. / Amtrak Celebration Express. Rail Europe will draw the names of 50 winning travel agents in January 2010 to socialize on board the Celebration Express, traveling from New York to Washington, DC on *Acela Express* in February 2010. This incentive is valid for bookings made between 9/15/09 and 10/31/09. No purchase is necessary to be entered to win a place on the Celebration Express. Terms and conditions as well as entry details can be found on agent.raileurope.com.

Rail Europe believes that the spirit of train travel is about enjoying the simple pleasures, respecting the environment and connecting with people, places and cultures. To book any of Rail Europe's wide range of economical railpasses and point-to-point tickets on trains throughout Europe & North America, log on to Rail Europe's web site for travel agents at agent.raileurope.com or call Rail Europe at 1-888-382-7245 (U.S.) or 1-800-361-7245 (Canada).

To book European rail for groups of 10 or more, please contact our Group Department at www.raileurope.com/group-travel/group-travel.html

*Photos– high-resolution photos may be downloaded by the press at
<http://downloads.raileurope.com/presspix/presspix.html>*

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Frederic Langlois, President & CEO of Rail Europe Inc signing the contract with Emmet Fremaux Vice President Marketing & Product Management at Amtrak

