
Turkey ready to launch high-speed

TURKISH transport minister Mr Binali Yildirim has confirmed commercial services will begin this month on the country's first high-speed line (IRJ January p18). Binali said the 206km line from Sincan, near Ankara to Inonu, west of Eskisehir will open on March 13, cutting the journey time between the two cities from three hours to 1h 10min.

Services will be operated by a fleet of 10 six-car 250km/h emus supplied by CAF, Spain. Two sets can work in multiple to form 12-car trains.

The line is the first phase of the 533km Ankara-Istanbul high-speed line, which will reduce journey times on this route from 6h 30min to just 3h.

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