

Deutsche Bahn begins sale of logistics company Schenker

With an advertisement in the "Wall Street Journal", Deutsche Bahn has started the sale of its subsidiary Schenker. It is considered a major player in the industry.

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Deutsche Bahn's logistics subsidiary, DB Schenker, is to be sold. © Jens Büttner/dpa
[Deutsche Bahn](#) has started the sale of its subsidiary Schenker. The group announced the process of selling up to 100 percent of the shares of the logistics company. To this end, Deutsche Bahn has initiated a bidding process for DB Schenker. A corresponding advertisement was placed in the *Wall Street Journal*, as the state-owned company announced.

The proceeds are to go entirely to the railways and reduce most of their debts. Interested parties can now submit bids. The bidding process should be carried out openly and non-discriminatorily in accordance with the rules of EU state aid law, Deutsche Bahn said.

DB Schenker was a profitable company for [Deutsche Bahn](#) for many years. In 2022, the subsidiary achieved a record profit of 1.8 billion euros before interest and taxes. In the first half of 2023, operating profit amounted to 626 million euros. According to *Handelsblatt*, which cited financial circles, the company is valued at 12 to 15 billion euros.

Recently, however, Schenker was also affected by the downturn in the global logistics market. Nevertheless, according to Deutsche Bahn, the company is one of the four top players in the industry – along with Kuehne + Nagel, the logistics group DSV and DHL.

Sale due to problems of the railway

The Supervisory Board of Deutsche Bahn had already decided to sell Schenker in December 2022. Deutsche Bahn wants to concentrate on its core business, rail transport in Germany. A sale would "significantly advance Deutsche Bahn's concentration on its core business and thus the implementation of the Strong Rail strategy," the group said of the sale.

Deutsche Bahn itself is highly indebted to the tune of more than 30 billion euros. For Deutsche Bahn, the sale of Schenker is therefore conditional on the fact that it brings a clear economic advantage to the railway company. The final decision on the sale of DB Schenker will be submitted separately to the Supervisory Board of Deutsche Bahn for a resolution at the end of the sale process.

According [to Schenker](#), Deutsche Bahn sees potential to grow with more capital and flexibility. The company is "very well positioned in all relevant market areas – land transport, air and sea freight – as well as in comprehensive and specialized logistics solutions compared to the rest of the industry." The company has approximately 76,600 employees at over 1,850 locations in more than 130 countries.