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FEVE (Narrow Gauge Railways) (www.feve.es)

President: Marcelino Oreja Arburúa

<i>Gauge:</i>	1,000 mm
<i>Route length:</i>	1,192.5 km
<i>Electrification:</i>	339 km at 1.5 kV DC

FEVE (Ferrocarriles de Vía Estrecha) is the state-owned operator of the 1,000 mm gauge lines that have not been adopted by autonomous communities. With the exception of the 19.61 km Cartagena-Los Nietos line in Murcia, FEVE's route-km network is in northwest Spain. At the start of 2012 FEVE employed 1,857 people.

In 2012 FEVE's annual operating deficit was put at around EUR150 million with debt of around EUR600 million. Under the government's National Reform Programme 2012, FEVE would be absorbed by RENFE Operadora and ADIF which would assume responsibility for metre gauge operations and infrastructure respectively.

Electrification

Electrification of the line from Oviedo to Santander was ongoing in 2012, with the Arriondas-Ribadesella section (costed at EUR6.38 million including a substation at Ribadesella) nearing completion.

Passenger operations

FEVE's most intensive passenger operations are the suburban services around Oviedo and Santander. These account respectively for around 5 million and 4 million passenger journeys annually. A regional service, typically two trains daily, operates between Bilbao, Santander and Oviedo and between Oviedo and Ferrol. One train operates in each direction between Bilbao and San Feliz, the terminus for León during construction of the León tramway which started in 2012. FEVE services generate around 12 million passenger journeys annually. FEVE also operates tourist services, including the Transcantábrico and La Robla luxury charter trains, and charter services utilising conventional passenger coaches. From 2012 it has operated the Ál Andalus luxury train in Andalucía in collaboration with RENFE Operadora.

Tram-Train

Conversion of the Cartagena-Los Nietos line in Murcia to a tram-train operation will provide new halts at 400 metre intervals to improve interoperability with other public transport, though the line will remain non-electrified. Planned extensions of the Cartagena system include a short line linking the FEVE station with the tourist centre, the university and the

bus and main line rail stations and a 28 km line skirting the Bay of Cartagena to serve San Pedro del Pinatar to the north.

FEVE plans to introduce the tram-train concept to some of its electrified lines in Asturias, Cantabria and Galicia for which an order for a further 24 vehicles will eventually be required. In 2011 it placed an EUR21.8 million order with Vossloh España for four units for delivery in 2013 to operate between Gijón and Laviana. (Construction of the line started in 2009 on the first phase, a EUR55 million project to construct a 2.9 km section (1.79 km underground) at Langreo). A similar order, valued at EUR18 million, was placed with Vossloh in 2011 for four units to operate Gijón-Avilés services from 2013. These orders followed an EUR17.63 million order placed with Vossloh in 2010 for the first four tram-trains for the León system.

Freight operations

FEVE carries coal from Asturias and iron and steel products to the Santander and Bilbao areas in collaboration with Basque Railways (ET/FV). Around 4 million freight-tonnes are carried annually.

International

FEVE is continuing to collaborate with overseas operators. In 2012 it completed the refurbishment of three Series 2400 series diesel locomotives on behalf of Ferrocarriles del Ecuador and rebuilding of rolling stock to operate tourist services. Also in 2012 it reached an agreement with Ferroviaria Oriental SA in Bolivia to provide technical support and management services for the development of that company's freight activities. FEVE continues to sell its redundant locomotives and rolling stock to Latin America with customers including the railway operators of Argentina, Costa Rica and Ecuador. At the end of 2011 a further five Series 2400 diesel units and three Series 1500 diesel locomotives were sold to the government of Argentina for EUR7.5 million. In 2012 it agreed the EUR4.5 million sale to Costa Rica of a further six Series 2400 units for delivery at the end of the year.

Rolling stock

FEVE operates 36 diesel locomotives and 17 Class 1900 electro-diesels. The latter are used primarily for freight but also for the Transcantábrico and other passenger charter work. The multiple-unit fleet comprises 58 electric multiple-units and 37 diesel units, the most modern of which are the Series 2700 and 2900 diesel-hydraulic units supplied by CAF. There are 17 passenger coaches utilised for charter services and 1,141 freight wagons. The Transcantábrico fleet comprises 29 passenger coaches and the La Robla fleet is made up of nine coaches.