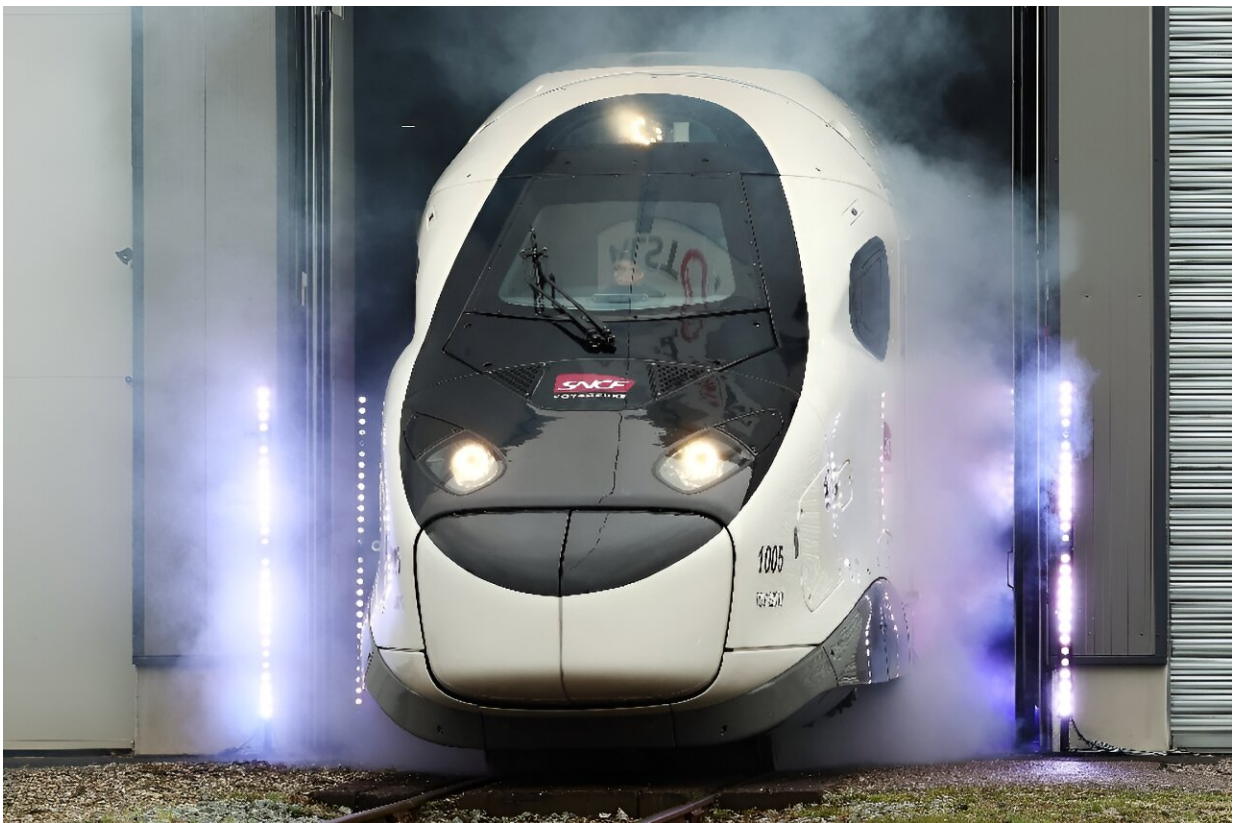


France's SNCF to offer high-speed passenger links in Italy

June 12 2024, by Antoine GUY



Italians look set to enjoy France's TGV.

French national rail operator SNCF said Wednesday it planned to offer high-speed passenger services in neighboring Italy from 2026, competing with rival Trenitalia on its home turf.

"Italy is a natural market for high speed, with 56 million passengers per year," said Alain Krakovitch, head of intercity TGV ([high-speed train](#)) services at SNCF Voyageurs.

"But it's a market that's yet to mature, with many passengers still to bring in."

SNCF plans eventually to offer nine daily return services between Turin, Milan, Rome and Naples, as well as four Turin-Venice trains.

The French heavyweight moved into Spain with intercity services in 2021, and has seen Trenitalia itself look to pick up business in France on the profitable Paris-Lyon line.

SNCF hopes to claim 15 percent of the Italian high-speed market within a decade, or 10 million passengers per year.

In Spain, it has built its passenger base to 20 percent with its low-cost Ouigo service.

European business already accounts for one-third of SNCF's annual high-speed revenues, or three billion euros (\$3.2 billion).

The publicly owned firm is also responding to explosive demand for [rail travel](#) at home in France.

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