

Information about the EU-Russia Workshop on Rail Research

October 2012, Moscow

EU-Russia Rail Research Workshop will take place in Moscow on 16-17 October 2012. The decision to hold it was the result of a series of meetings and negotiations between the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission and JSC Railway Research Institute – JSC “VNIIZhT”, which is the largest railway research organisation both in the Russian Federation and the whole 1520 mm system.

The history of EU-Russia rail research cooperation dates back to April 2006, when representatives of the European Commission paid their first official visit in the JSC “RZD” and JSC “VNIIZhT”. During that visit a Joint Declaration and a Joint Action Plan were signed to develop the cooperation in rail research between EU and Russia. These documents constitute the basis for the workshop.

The main target of the workshop is to define areas, where there is an opportunity for EU and Russia to cooperate mutually profitable.

On the 1st day of the event, workshop participants will make presentations covering the current activities and policies as well as future strategies, in particular Horizon 2020 that is the financial instrument implementing the Innovation Union, and the Strategy for the Development of Rail Transport in the Russian Federation up to 2030 including the Programme of the Innovative Development of Russian Railways.

Besides, on the first day, it is planned to carry out two parallel sessions on subjects «Improvement of the traffic» and « Innovative Infrastructure Management».

On the 2nd day, it is planned to carry out two parallel sessions on subjects “Landbridge Europe-Asia as a tool for the enhancement of global competitiveness” and “Economically and environmentally sustainable railway transport”. At the end of each session brainstorming is foreseen to identify areas of mutual interest.

For the 3rd day, October 18, 2012 a technical excursion of the workshop’s participants to the Experimental ring in Shcherbinka is scheduled to present laboratory and experimental facilities of VNIIZhT.

It is expected that this workshop will become an important event for the EU and Russia research and development organisations. It should provide a good opportunity to deepen international integration in rail research and help to identify promising mutual interest areas for active non-contradictory cooperation between European and Russian companies and research centres for the benefit of the further development of the pan-European railway sector. Besides, it should demonstrate potential of Russia in rail research.