

# **Press kit**

International Railway Congress 2019

**March 18–19, 2019**

**Vienna, Austria**

**JSC Russian Railways  
Department of Corporate Communications  
PRESS SERVICE**



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## **International Railway Congress 2019**

International Railway Congress 2019 will take place in Vienna on March 18–19, 2019. It will be the largest business platform where heads of national railway companies working in countries that use both 1,520-mm and 1,435-mm-gauge rail will meet.

The Congress is dedicated to increasing the efficiency of international freight and passenger transportation using digital technologies and transit potential for the existing transportation corridors to and from Eurasia.

The Congress will consider ways to reduce customs barriers and unify legal and technical regulations governing railway transportation between Europe and Asia. One important topic for the Congress will be to consider ways to improve the competitiveness of European and Russian rail links and integrate the solutions found in international trade and tourism, including the construction of the Košice–Bratislava–Vienna railway line with a track gauge of 1,520 mm.

Representatives of the Austrian Ministry of Transport, heads of international railway organizations, and business leaders and experts from the railway industry will take part in the business program of the Congress.

The Russian Railways delegation will be headed by General Director and Chairman of the Board Oleg Belozyorov.

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More information about the International Railway Congress can be found at <http://rail-congress.com/congress/>

## **Russian Railways and ÖBB Cooperation**

ÖBB is one of Russian Railways' leading foreign partners in Central and Eastern Europe. The companies coordinate their activities and perform joint projects in the field of infrastructure development, innovation and human resources.

Top management and heads of core units have formed effective dialogue mechanisms. In particular, High Level Council was created to coordinate cooperation of the companies in accordance with the addendum signed in February 2018 to the cooperation agreement between the Russian Railways and ÖBB as of May 19, 2011. The first meeting of the Council took place last summer in Vienna.

One important area of collaboration is the development of passenger and freight traffic between the Russian Federation and Austria.

The international Moscow–Nice train with stops in Vienna and Innsbruck in Austria has been running since September 2010.

The volume of international transport of goods between Russia and Austria in 2018 increased 4% and amounted to 541,900 t.

The memorandum for personnel development signed between Russian Railways and ÖBB includes the Young Talents Program for exchanging experience between young employees of the two companies. This program is aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation. It is an integral part of large joint infrastructure projects, and will be a platform for creating joint communication facilities.

Six program cycles were completed (2013–2018) to familiarize Austrian workers with the Moscow, Gorky, Kuibyshev, October, West Siberian and East Siberian railways. More than 90 industrial and social infrastructure sites of JSC Russian Railways have been visited.

In turn, young employees from the Russian Railways visited more than ten cities in Austria, Hungary and Slovenia, where they became familiar with the technologies of their Austrian colleagues.

In six years, about 160 people in all took part in the program.

The seventh cycle of the program is scheduled for 2019. The youth delegation from Austria will arrive at the Russian Railways facilities in July 2019, and the Russian delegation will travel in October 2019.

## **1520mm Broad Gauge to Bratislava and Vienna**

One of the priorities for Russia and Austria is creating a new Eurasian transport corridor with the construction of a railway line with a gauge of 1,520 mm to Bratislava and Vienna.

The project is being implemented jointly with the railway administrations and transport departments of Austria, Slovakia and Ukraine. It involves the creation of a new Eurasian transport corridor by extending the broad-gauge railway from Košice (Slovak Republic) to Bratislava with access to Vienna and the creation of an international logistics center in the Vienna–Bratislava region.

This work is part of the Breitspur Planungsgesellschaft joint venture established in 2009 with the participation of Russia, Ukraine, Slovakia and Austria and registered in Austria.

The BVO consortium of companies Bernard (Austria), Valbek (Slovakia), and Obermeier (Germany), selected through open tenders, have completed a full feasibility study for the project. As part of this study, the analysis of cargo flows was refined and Deloitte developed a business plan and a business model for the project.

The results of the feasibility study were reviewed and adopted by the board of the joint venture in July 2017. The general meeting of shareholders of the joint venture recommended moving on to the next stage (preliminary design) and continuing the reduction of costs and construction time. The interaction with potential investors is ongoing and the development of proposals for financing and the formation of a marketing strategy continues.

At the initiative of the heads of the Ministries of Transport of Russia and Austria, a decision was made in May 2018 to establish a special working group to agree on a project-financing scheme and other issues.

One of the key activities in the project is passing an environmental review procedure in the governmental bodies of Austria and Slovakia. The official submission of the documents to the state and municipal bodies of Austria and Slovakia took place on November 15, 2018. With the positive results of the public hearings in 2019, preliminary approvals for the project in the governments of Austria and Slovakia are expected.

## **Russian Railways Foreign Projects**

Russian Railways Holding is strengthening the company's competitiveness in the international market by implementing projects for the development of railway infrastructure, joint ventures with foreign partners in the field of logistics, and the development of new and promising transportation markets.

### **Serbia**

In 2018, the construction of the most complex high-speed facilities (up to 200 km/h) of the Belgrade–Budapest railway began. Work was completed on two sections, which allowed trains to start running on four lines.

On January 17, 2019, a memorandum was signed between Russian Railways and the Republic of Serbia on the joint implementation of projects for the ongoing maintenance of railway-infrastructure facilities in Serbia. A new contract was also concluded between RZD International LLC (a subsidiary of Russian Railways) and JSC Serbian Railways Infrastructure for the design and construction of railway infrastructure and a single dispatch center for train control.

### **Iran**

In 2018, the predesign stage of the electrification of the Garmsar-Inche Burun line in Iran was completed, a project with a cost of €1.2 billion. In November, the contract was accepted for financing by the Ministry of Finance of Russia.

### **India**

In 2019, it is planned to complete a feasibility study for the project to modernize the Nagpur–Secunderabad railway line (581 km) to increase the speed of passenger trains to 200 km/h.

### **Cuba**

The Russian Railways has entered the Cuban market with a fully formed modern integrated project for reconstructing the railways. Preparations for signing a contract are underway.

### **Armenia and Mongolia**

In 2018, work was carried out on managing infrastructure assets in Mongolia and Armenia, bringing about significant results. By the end of the year, the Ulan-Bator railway transported a record 25.8 million t of cargo, including 3 million t of transit traffic.

The tenth anniversary of the CJSC South Caucasus Railway concession agreement marked an increase in freight traffic and the launch of passenger traffic on the Yerevan–Gyumri route by a Russian made electric train. This service was heralded by the citizens of Armenia and supported by requests for similar services on other routes.

## About Russian Railways

**Open Joint Stock Company Russian Railways** is one of the largest railway companies in the world, shipping huge volumes of freight and passenger traffic and boasting high financial ratings, qualified specialists in all areas of railway transport, a large scientific and technical base, engineering and construction capacities, and significant experience in international cooperation.

**The authorized capital** of Russian Railways amounts to 2,254,029,003,000 rubles. The founder and sole shareholder of Russian Railways is the Russian Federation.

**The company has representative offices** in Hungary (Budapest), Germany (Berlin), China (Beijing), North Korea (Pyongyang), Poland (Warsaw), Slovakia (Bratislava), Ukraine (Kiev), Finland (Helsinki), Belarus (Minsk), Estonia (Tallinn), France (Paris) and Iran (Tehran).

### **Technical Characteristics of Russian Railways:**

The Russian railway system is one of the largest transportation systems in the world with an operational length of 85,500 km.

Russian Railways has the longest electrified lines: 43,700 km.

Russian Railways provides 45.3% of the total cargo turnover (including pipeline transportation) and 24.4% of passenger turnover in the Russian Federation.

### **Fleet Composition by Traction and Rolling Stock Type:**

- Freight trunk locomotives (electric and diesel locomotives): 11,800
- Shunting locomotives (diesel locomotives): 5,900
- Passenger locomotives (electric and diesel): 3,100
- Long-distance passenger cars: 21,000
- Suburban rail passenger cars: 14,300

### **Production and Economic Indicators (Operational Data for 2018):**

- Shipping: 1 billion 289.6 million t (+2.2% from 2017)
- Freight turnover: 3,304.4 billion t/km (+4% from 2017)
- Long-distance and suburban passenger transportation: 1 billion 155 million people (+3.4% from 2017)
- Passenger turnover: 129.3 billion passengers/km (+5.2% from 2017)