

## India is interested in the technology of the Spanish railway industry

- A MAFEX delegation travels to India to visit the fair IREE 2013, the main country's rail industry platform.
- With this new journey, MAFEX seeks closer trade ties with one of the key strategic markets for rail exports.

Madrid, September 30th 2013.- The Spanish Railway Association (MAFEX) will travel during these days to India to visit the International Railway Equipment Exhibition (IREE 2013), the main platform of the country's railway industry.

With this visit MAFEX wants to strengthen promotional activities which MAFEX has been carrying out in recent years in emerging markets such as India, in order to provide an avenue for future internationalization of the Spanish railway industry and increase options for participation in the many new rail projects and rail networks which extend across the country.

### **India: in search of the best experts for their great railway plans**

The Indian government has been realizing, for more than a year, a major effort to boost rail links across the country. It has therefore approved a batch of 9,700 million euros to be allocated to modernizing lines and expanding networks until 2017. This country, the fourth largest economy in the world, needs to improve its infrastructure to meet the new challenges of urban mobility and connections of medium and long distances. For this reason, the program of activities includes the construction of 1,300 kilometres of new railways and line doubling work on 867 kilometres of track and rail conversion in another 1,017 kilometres.

One area where more investments will be made until the year 2020 is in the metropolitan transport. There are rail projects in major cities, among which are Mumbai, Bangalore, Jaipur and Hyderabad. The country also plans to tender eight more networks.

These programs are joined by the improvements being made to boost freight rail transport. The World Bank granted a loan to India for over 900 million euros for the construction of a rail corridor dedicated exclusively to this type of traffic between the north and east of the country.

### **Spanish firm projects in all segments of the railway field**

Spanish companies make their way more and more firmly in the Indian market, from large construction of rolling stock, to engineering, consulting and auxiliary equipment companies, signalling and telecommunications, among others.

Among the most notable projects, Spanish firms have taken part in the development and implementation of the metros of New Delhi, Calcutta, Mumbai and Hyderabad, the Mumbai monorail or the modernization of railway sections such as the connection Vijayawada-Bhimavaram.

*\*About MAFEX*

*The objective of the Spanish Railway Association (MAFEX) is to carry out promotional activities in other countries, as well as to defend their general interests.*

Created in 2004, it currently has 71 members representing more than 85% of Spanish rail industry's exports, according to official figures in 2012. Known as the official collaborating organization of the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness through its Subsecretariat of Trade, the Association is supported by GRUPO AGEX, to which it belongs, and by different national and international organizations and institutions.

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