

€52 M for the restoration of Manchester's Victoria Station

UNITED KINGDOM . Work has started on a 52 M € restoration of Manchester's Victoria Station. The project includes restoration of the station's period features, including the glazed canopy at the front of the building, which was built in 1844.

Northern Rail said the scheme would "future-proof" the station, ahead of the electrification of the line to Liverpool. Besides, a line connecting the Grade II-listed station with Manchester Piccadilly has also been approved.

It is part of a wider plan to improve

rail services in Manchester called the Northern Hub, which would see Victoria being transformed into a major interchange. The improvements would also mean four fast trains every hour between Liverpool and Manchester and six between Manchester and Leeds.

Other improvements include a new roof, improved concourse area, refurbishment of the war memorial, glass dome and the wall map, new lighting and glazed entrances.

The works are expected to be completed by the end of 2014. ■



The Victoria Station project includes the restoration of the glass roof.

Spanish railway companies are promoted in Brazil

BRAZIL. A delegation of twelve companies of the Spanish railway industry have travelled to Brazil, under the coordination of the Spanish Railway Association (Mafex), to boost its presence in this market and improve their opportunities for participation in major infrastructure projects in the country.

The representatives of the attending companies have planned a busy agenda with direct meetings and rounds of working with major public and private railway companies in the sector as rail operator Metro Sao Paulo or CPTM in the city of Sao Paulo, among others.

The association noted in a statement that the trade delegation takes place at a time which is "specially key" for Spanish rail exports in Brazil. State Transportation Program (PET), designed for the Brazilian government for the next 25 years, is endowed with a party of €53,500 M for rail and road.

The plan includes the construction of 3,350 km of new lines for passenger

transport, with the main objective of improving the national network at major sporting events such as the Soccer World Cup (2014) and the Olympics (2016).

Also strengthen freight connections with more than 14,500 additional kilometers. The "star" is the high-speed train "Campinas-Sao Paulo-Rio de Janeiro", which has an investment of €14,000 M, of which €1,050 M will be used for the manufacture of rolling stock, a lot of 42 trains will be the first to win.

For maintenance, for a period of 40 years, there will be a lot of €2,400 M, while for civil works and track equipment for the 530 kilometre long line there will be an investment of €6,900 M. At present, the Spanish railway industry is the main reference part to win the project, given its extensive experience in this area and the technological developments made in recent years in rolling stock, such as communication systems, "ticketing" and signalling. ■

European companies interested in Russian infrastructure

RUSSIA. The Merano Forum international summit bringing together leaders in transportation construction opened today in Italy's Merano. "Infrastructure projects around the world are seen as projects designed to help the economies of different countries overcome the ongoing crisis," said Russian Railways' President Vladimir Yakunin. Foreign construction and logistics companies are also very interested in developing Russia's infrastructure in the Far East and Siberia: the Trans-Siberian and Baikal-Amur Mainlines. Yakunin reminded the Forum's participants that the Russian government had decided to allocate €6,000 M to the development of rail infrastructure projects in the region. ■

Knorr-Bremse to equip diesel trains in the UK

UNITED KINGDOM . Knorr-Bremse has been awarded two important contracts by the Go-Ahead Group in the UK: the company is to fit the LEADER Driver Advisory System to the diesel train fleets at London Midland and Southern. The aim is for LEADER to help cut fuel consumption and carbon emissions, making a valuable contribution to realising the Go-Ahead Group's environmental goals. The two contracts cover a total of 132 LEADER cab sets, destined for the different classes of DMUs operated by London Midland (100 sets) and Southern (32 sets). Installation and commissioning of the LEADER systems on both fleets is due to be completed by autumn 2013. ■

Quintiq chosen by VolkerRail for company-wide planning

NETHERLANDS. Quintiq, a global leader in supply chain planning and optimization (SCP&O), announced that VolkerRail, a Dutch-based specialist railway infrastructure contractor, has chosen Quintiq for project and multi-resource planning across its operations. Quintiq will develop and deliver to VolkerRail a single, SCP&O platform configured to meet 100% of the company's workforce planning constraints. Quintiq's solution will empower VolkerRail to plan and schedule employees and machines for construction and maintenance activities. ■

International centre for high-speed rail Russia-France

RUSSIA. Russian Railways, SNCF, France's national rail company, the Moscow State University of Railway Engineering (MIIT), the National School of Bridges and Roads (ENPC) and the Conservatoire national des arts et métiers (CNAM) have signed a Letter of Intent to establish an international centre of high-speed rail and high-speed transport systems. The agreement is aimed at developing and improving high-speed transportation systems and their various components in France and the CIS countries. ■