



Press release

## **Kazakhstan's bid for the railroad industry attracts Spain**

- **Transport infrastructure is a strategic priority in the development plans of Kazakhstan. A program destined to promote the railway in one of the leading countries of Asia.**

Madrid, April 7th, 2014 -. A large representation of Spanish companies will be from the 7th to the 11<sup>th</sup> of April in Kazakhstan as part of a new business delegation organized by the Spanish Railway Association (MAFEX). This journey, which is part of the internationalization plan of activities for the year 2014 designed by MAFEX, lays the foundations for further cooperation in railway transport between the two countries and will strengthen business relationships to extend the presence of Spanish railway companies in the high number of rail projects planned for the coming years.

### **Kazakhstan: Asian launch in transportation investments**

Kazakhstan, which is emerging, as experts note, at the head of the Central Asian economy, needs to have modern infrastructure required for the proper distribution of the flow of raw materials, inside and outside its borders.

In this context of investments, the Kazakh railway sector represents one of the most important items in the Strategic Development Plan of Kazakhstan 2020, the State Program for Accelerated Industrial Development and the Innovation and Development Program of Transport Infrastructure.

Among the main objectives of these plans are the boost to carry goods between Asia and Europe and the export of natural resources and the improvement of the internal connections nationwide. To do this, 1,600 kilometres of track will be built and 2,700 kilometres of the existing network electrified.

The most relevant projects include the electrification of several lines in Corridor 1, such as the one between Almaty and Aktogai. It is a stretch of 541 kilometres which has a budget of one billion euros destined to modernization works and will be implemented between 2015 and 2018. We must also add the works in the path Dostyk - Aktoga, 309 kilometres and with an estimated cost of 500 million euros. This section has been included in the Northern Corridor, the Central TransAsian and the International TRACECA.

Moreover, during the next four years there are plans for the electrification of the route Aktogai – Mointy, with a total cost of 745.9 million dollars. The section consists of 522 kilometres between Mointy and Aktogai and it has been included in the Northern Corridor of the Trans–Asian railway.

Part of this work will serve for the launch of a new high-speed line between Astana and Almaty, which is expected to be ready by 2017. In this network, with a track width of 1,520 millimetres, the trains will move at a speed of 250 kilometres per hour.

Nevertheless, a 146 kilometres branch line from Aktau to Turkmenistan is under project, with which they would communicate directly with the Russian market, through Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Iran, the countries of the Persian Gulf and India. There are also other initiatives under study such as a new light rail network in Almaty, which would have an initial budget of 340 million euros.

### **Spanish presence in rail projects in Kazakhstan**

The trade delegation organized by MAFEX reinforces recent impulses that have been made from our country to increase the market share of the Spanish industry in this strategic development area. Thus, the Prime Minister paid a visit in the last quarter of 2013 to support international expansion in Kazakhstan.

A journey that also served to sign major contracts in the transport sector, including the award of the Transportation Plan of the city of Astana to TYPSA, as well as the conceptual and detailed design of the light rail network.

The Spanish presence in the country is very well represented by other companies in the rail industry like TALGO, which recently closed its second largest international contract for the maintenance of 1,044 passenger cars for fifteen years for an amount of 989 million euros. An award that binds to the agreement with the Government of Kazakhstan to replace a fleet of 3,000 passenger cars with more modern rolling stock consisting of the Talgo Intercity model. Other companies associated with MAFEX that are present in the country are Tecknorail Systems, Indra and Albatros.

*\*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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