

Spain and Mexico strengthen ties in rail projects

• In order to strengthen business ties and expand cooperation in railway infrastructure projects, MAFEX, in collaboration with ICEX, organizes from the 26th to the 30th of May a new sales office in Mexico. This country is a strategic market for the Spanish railway companies abroad.

Madrid, May 26th, 2014 -. The Spanish Railway Association (MAFEX), in collaboration with ICEX-Spain Trade and Investment, will travel to Mexico with a delegation of Spanish businessmen from the 26th to the 30th of May, to strengthen trade ties and increase cooperation on transport infrastructure

The visit, which is part of the MAFEX Business Plan 2014, aims to raise awareness of the interests of the Spanish industry to participate in the new railway projects and provide expertise and technology to the numerous works planned in transport matters in the country.

The agenda of the delegation includes an intense round of contacts with representatives of various administrations and institutions of the railway field, as well as companies of the sector.

Mexico: Infrastructure Program with the railroad as a protagonist

The trip of the Spanish trade delegation takes place in a time of special importance in investment in Mexico. At present, the government has launched the National Infrastructure Program, which includes extensive planning projects to improve the national rail network and metro communications. Therefore, in the coming years, major investments are expected in 13 major projects, five passengers, four of goods and four urban, focusing in particular on the modernization of existing rails, extension lines, signaling systems and construction of new terminals.

Among the most noteworthy are the works on the Guadalajara-Aguascalientes in Encarnación, which will shorten the distance between the ports of Manzanillo and Altamira in about 200 kilometers and will reduce the travel time to 16 hours.

Also, Mexico wants to promote projects such as the connections Mexico-Toluca, Mexico-Queretaro and the Transpeninsular Corridor.

Regarding freight traffic, which accounts for 27% of transport, the aim is to increase the speed to expedite such communications and achieve in a few years the mobilization of a third of the burden of the country.

In this case, three ring projects are on sight. First, in the city of Manzanillo, a tunnel of more than 500 meters long will be built and will decrease traffic to the port. Furthermore,

the works of Coatzacoalcos and Celaya, as well as those in Matamoros, are also intended to decrease the risk associated with rail transit in these cities and improve business operations.

Passengers: Plans to boost rail transport

Executive plans on urban transport aim to improve existing infrastructure to streamline communications in Tijuana, Mérida, the region of La Laguna and the eastern area of the State of Mexico.

It also wants to promote the expansion of existing services in rails in other cities like Guadalajara, Monterrey, Aguascalientes and San Luis Potosi. For now, works have already begun on the Light Rail Line 3 of Guadalajara, to connect the metropolitan area of the capital of Jalisco, and Metro Line 3 of Monterrey.

Spanish companies, very present in the railway sector

The trade delegation MAFEX represents a new opportunity to strengthen trade ties in Mexico, a strategic country in the internationalization of Spanish railway companies, which already have extensive representation in the most emblematic projects of recent years in transportation. Among them, Metro de Mexico, Monterrey, Buenavista-Cautitlán Suburban, railway of Yucatan, etc.. All of them have had the experience of the Spanish industry and companies like Actia Systems Spain, Albatros, Amurrio Ferrocarril y Equipos, Arcelormittal Spain, Artech (Electrotechnical Artech Smartgrid), CAF, CAF Power & Automation, Fainsa, Felguera Melt, Hicasa Idom, Ikusi-Angel Iglesias, Indra Sistemas, Ineco, Jez Railway Systems, La Farga Lacambra, Manusa Door systems, Nem Solutions and Sener.

** 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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