

Rome, 25 May 2007

Agreement signed with Russian Railways for new signalling system on national network

The heads of Finmeccanica, Russian Railways (RZD) and the Russian research, development and planning institute for railway technology (VNIIAS), signed a partnership agreement in the rail signalling sector in Sochi. Under the agreement, a new rail signalling system will be built by Ansaldo STS, the world leader in this field, for use on existing Russian railway lines and stations.

The innovative system, known as a Radio Block Centre (RBC), is already used on the Italian high-speed train network, and has received technical approval from VNIIAS. It can be easily adapted for the Russian rail network and used for all types of traffic, whether medium-intensity or high-speed.

RBC technology increases the safety of existing systems and allows both goods and passenger trains to travel at higher speeds. Trains will remain in constant communication with the control centres thanks to radio systems built by SELEX Communications, a Finmeccanica company, while satellite technology provided by Telespazio, a Finmeccanica/Thales company, will enable them to be tracked.

Pier Francesco Guarguaglini, Chairman and CEO of Finmeccanica, said, "The agreement confirms the excellent relations that the Finmeccanica group has developed in Russia, a country that has repeatedly shown significant interest in Italian technology. It also strengthens our view that there are further opportunities for industrial partnerships".

This signature follows a series of transport agreements signed between Finmeccanica and the Russian Federation since 2005. The most recent of these came during the Italian-Russian summit in Bari last March, when Vladimir Yakunin, head of Russian Railways, and Pier Francesco Guarguaglini signed a partnership agreement in the presence of Vladimir Putin and Romano Prodi, under which Finmeccanica subsidiary SELEX Sistemi Integrati will provide safety and security systems for the Russian rail network.