



## **RUSSIAN RAILWAYS, THE ITALIAN RAIL OPERATOR (FS) AND FINMECCANICA SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

### **The aim: commercial co-operation on international projects**

Rome, 9 February 2007

The Chairman of Russian Railways, Vladimir Yakunin, CEO of Italian rail operator Ferrovie dello Stato (FS), Mauro Moretti, and Chairman and CEO of Finmeccanica, Pier Francesco Guarguaglini met in Rome today to sign a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at commercial co-operation on joint international projects, notably in the area of high-speed train travel.

The MoU covers the launch of joint activities such as staff training and the development of rail technologies, with regard to both rolling stock, and automation and signalling systems, as well as joint opportunities for infrastructure projects in third countries.

Over the course of the meetings held, the parties expressed a strong interest in working together on the high-speed rail link between Moscow and St Petersburg, identifying a number of possible forms of co-operation between the three companies.

On their way to Rome, the Russian delegation's technology experts visited new high-speed/high-capacity rail lines, and showed considerable interest in Italian expertise and technologies, which are currently considered to be among the world's best.

The signing of today's agreement is the result of the meetings on Italian high-speed/high-capacity technologies organised in Moscow by FS and Finmeccanica on 28 November 2006, which were also attended by Italy's Transport Minister, Alessandro Bianchi.