

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



2008 September—December

LIETUVOS GELEŽINKELIAI
KROVINIŲ VEŽIMO DIREKCIJA

JSC Lithuanian Railways Freight Transportation Directorate Logistics Centre

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Newsletter

This newsletter includes:

Important meetings with international

Meetings and agreements

On 5 September, representative of Lietuvos Geležinkeliai AB, Deputy Director of the Freight Transportation Department Mr. Saulius Stasiūnas participated in a business mission of German-Lithuanian companies. When communicating with the German representatives, cooperation possibilities were discussed by diverting transport flows both ways from Germany via Lithuania to Russia. A meeting regarding specific details of the projects and further perspectives between German business representatives and Lietuvos Geležinkeliai AB management is planned to be organized.

On 22 August, Mr. Stasys Gudvalis, director of the Freight Transportation Department of Lietuvos Geležinkeliai AB, met with representatives of the Italian and Russian transport. Apart from other issues, during the meeting they discussed the possibilities to carry containers from Europe to CIS countries via Šeštokai railway station. This is especially beneficial to Lithuania, as a transit state, by diverting their freight flows via their territory and utilizing the existing logistics and infrastructure potential. During the meeting, further cooperation plans with specific dates and suggestions were discussed.

Meetings with local partners

On 4 September a meeting with the consignees of bulk cargoes took place. The meeting was attended by Mr. Stasys Gudvalis, director of the Freight Transportation Department of Lietuvos Geležinkeliai AB, and other specialists and partners of the company – Milsa UAB, Fegda UAB, Pakrova UAB, Dvarčionių Keramika AB, Sostinės Gatvės UAB. During the meeting issues on upgrading the bulk cargo loading and development possibilities were discussed.

Important agreements with Polish are underway

LG Ekspedicija of the Freight Transportation Directorate of Lietuvos Geležinkeliai AB established close relationships with an international forwarding company Trade Trans of the Austrian and Polish capital. In the near future a mutual freight transportation agreement shall be signed. Lietuvos Geležinkeliai AB expects that this agreement will increase freight flows between Poland and Lithuania during the unique Šeštokai station having both, narrow and board gauge tracks, and a potential for the transportation of containers.

Also, an especially important for Lietuvos Geležinkeliai AB agreement with PKP Cargo is planned to be signed in the near future. The meeting is intended to organize a mechanism for the presentation of expeditious information about the rates and freight transportation. Also, the object of the agreement is very important – setting a uniform rate for Lithuanian forwarders in the entire territory of Poland and vice versa.

Meeting with MAERSK

The secretary of the Minister of Communications and a member of the board of Lietuvos Geležinkeliai AB Mr. Arvydas Vaitkus met in Vilnius with representatives of one of the largest container transportation company MAERSK. During the meeting MAERSK representatives introduced plans on the development of the company in Lithuania. According to them, Lithuania has a sufficiently well developed port and railway transport infrastructure. MAERSK representatives noted that Klaipėda State Seaport is very attractive to them for developing their activities.

The secretary of the Ministry Mr. Vaitkus familiarized with the intended plans for the development of Klaipėda State Seaport. During the meeting the secretary of the Ministry introduced a project on the intermodal train "Viking".

The secretary of the Ministry also emphasized that Lithuania is very much interested in the processes on the development of container carriages in Europe. According to him, Lithuania is interested in the growth of container carriages via the Klaipėda port and makes great investments into the development of railway and logistics infrastructure.

Agreement with Russkaya Troyka

On the 18th of December General Director of Lietuvos Geležinkeliai, Stasys Dailydka met with Russkaya Troyka's representative, Andrejus Munkinas, to sign a contract on cooperation. Lietuvos Geležinkeliai, together with one of Russia's leading freight operators, want to increase transport of goods from the Western Europe to Russia and back. JSC Russkaya Troyka is a modern transportation company providing East-West intermodal container transportations. The company is in 50% owned by the Russian Railways.

Meeting at Warsaw

On 21-22 October issues on the transportation of freight via Šeštokai railway stations were discussed in Warsaw. Two type railway gauges intersect in Šeštokai railway station: 1435 and 1520 mm. Also, all necessary infrastructure facilities for servicing freight are available in the station for loading cargo from one gauge -width wagon to another gauge-width wagon. Šeštokai railway station is currently expanded and upgraded seeking to increase the load of containers and their transportation via this station. These are as if gates between the European and CIS states adapted for the performance of intermodal carriages. If you are interested and willing to transport freight by containers both ways from the EU to the CIS countries, or straight to Lithuania, please contact specialists of the Logistics Centre of the Freight Transportation Directorate of Lietuvos Geležinkeliai AB by phone 0037052692125 or e-mail r.kudzmanas@litrail.lt.

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Freight transportation news

Unique freight was transported

On 27 October of the current year Lietuvos Geležinkeliai AB performed the carriage of a heavyweight (378 tons) out-of-gauge cargo (turbogenerator rotor) from Lithuania to Ukraine. Loading of the cargo was carried out in Ignalina nuclear plant using three lifting cranes with a lifting capacity of 100 tons of the Kone Crane Company. It is noteworthy that during the performance of works the work of all cranes had to be synchronized up to a height difference of 1 mm, and, as the practice showed, this was possible. The rolling stock that was used for the transportation of this cargo was also unique. This is a transporter wagon with as many as 28 axes, comprised of two separate parts that are separated during the time of loading (in other ways, the transporter was divided in half). After mounting the cargo on the carrying consoles, the parts were connected through them and a new rolling stock was formed. A team of three specialists was appointed for its service which performed the coordination of loading works as well as the adjustment of components in the transporter wagon (braking, tripping arm, etc.) with great precision.

The transportation module itself was comprised of five additional wagons and a control frame with which help the specialists observed the riding of the cargo according to the structure approach dimensions during its transportation. The loading and transportation of the turbogenerator had not been possible without the help of different field and competence specialists (from the station duty officer to engineer-constructor) – some persons coordinated the itinerary of railway carriage, others constructed the requisites of fastening. Successful transportation of such a size and weight cargo proves that it is considerably simpler to transport diesel and heavyweight freight by the railway transport than by the road transport. At the same time we inform that if you have to transport heavyweight and out-of-gauge freight, please contact specialists of the Logistics Centre of the Freight Transportation Directorate of Lietuvos Geležinkeliai AB by phone 0037052693981 or by e-mail: a.puriuskis@litrail.lt

Freight terminals developed

After making a feasibility study of four stations – Vilnius, Paneriai, Palemonas and Šeštokai, it was decided to develop and modernize Paneriai, Palemonas and Šeštokai stations. Currently, a study of project suggestions is prepared that will have to precisely answer how specifically these stations should be upgraded seeking to utilize the existing and future infrastructure in an optimal way. After making the study Lietuvos Geležinkeliai AB will take a decision how to set priorities for investments, i.e. what infrastructure modernizations are the most necessary for serving freight and what upgrading should wait for a while.

Plans are made to orientate Šeštokai, due to their uniqueness, towards the intermodal container transportation. Meanwhile both, Paneriai and Palemonas railway stations are planned to be orientated towards both, intermodal container transportation and the performance of necessary upgrading necessary for the transportation and loading of bulk cargo.

Lithuanian — Polish cooperation

On 27 August a meeting was held with representatives of the country's carriers, forwarders, logistics associations and other associated business structures at the Ministry of Communication. The Minister of Communications Mr. Algirdas Butkevičius, responsible specialists of Lietuvos Geležinkeliai AB and state enterprise Klaipėda State Seaport directorate introduced the course of the establishment of public logistics centres, works that have been accomplished and are planned to be performed.

Participants of the meeting were familiarized with the preparatory works for the establishment of public logistics centres (PLC), legal acts regulating their activities and premises for their development, experience of foreign countries. The contribution of the state and private capital while establishing the PLC, also possible models of their management were discussed.

According to Mr. Butkevičius, the establishment of PLC is one of the most ambitious Lithuanian transport projects, an entirely new thing in the transport system of the country. The goal of the PLC is to ensure the interaction of different transport modes in trans-European transport corridors, improve the country's transport system and logistics services provided, as well as to establish better conditions for business.

An obligatory part of the PLC is intermodal terminals enabling to manipulate freight flows transported by different transport modes. Therefore in Lithuania, as in other countries of the world, they are set up near the main railway lines and highways that bear the biggest load of the freight transported.

By generalizing results of the meeting, business representatives positively assessed the accomplished works. The president of the Lithuanian National Road Carriers Association "Linava" Algimantas Kondrusevičius, president of the Lithuanian National Forwarders Association "Lineka" Vytautas Levickas, representative of the Lithuanian Shipbrokers and Agent Association Arijus Ramonas approved the necessity of the PLC and was pleased that these important works are gaining a momentum.

Specific project decisions on the PLC will be taken upon completion of feasibility studies. The feasibility study of Vilnius PLC is intended to be finalized by Q3 2009 and Klaipėda PLC by Q1 2009. Construction works are intended to be commenced in 2012-2013. Approximately LTL 300 million is intended for the establishment of PLC of the European Union and Lithuanian budget funds.

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