

Sapa Mass Transportation's Rolling Stock Division looks back at a succesful Exporail 2010.

The event took place from March 17th to 19th in Moscow, Russia. As part of our global strategy, Sapa Mass Transportation decided to participate at this important outlook to the Russian Rolling Stock market.

From 2007 till 2030 Russian Railways (RZD) will eventually have invested ~ 340 billion Euros in the development of their railway programme. In all, some 20,500 route-km of new lines are to be constructed, of which 1,500 km will be for high-speed services. Also to be built are new railways to develop valuable mineral reserves in parts of Russia not currently served by the network. In the key area of traction and rolling stock, around 16 billion Euros will be spent by RZD over the next 20 years to modernise and expand its fleet.

Our major rolling stock customers are present and active in Russia; Siemens' Velaro High Speed Train – locally called Sapsan - connecting Moscow with Saint Petersburg – is operational since December 17th 2009, and very recently (March 1st) Alstom acquired 25% of the capital of Transmashholding – Russia's largest RS producer.

SMT's first presence in Russia can be described as a succes right from the start. Our newly developed, eyecatching stand attracted many qualified visitors and the VLU bodyside – produced for our customer Bombardier – together with the FSW (friction stir welded) floor, did rise numerous questions.

We found ourselves as pioneers of the aluminium industry, answering on many topics concerning alloys, extrusion and FSW. As the use of aluminium in Rolling Stock is far from common knowledge in Russia, many of the techniques displayed were discussed. High speed trains, metro and regional trains as well as freight wagons are hot topics; many visitors had very precise questions concerning the durability and sustainability of aluminium extrusions and FSW as a construction tool.

Because of the language barrier we had hired translator services and with the help of some slide shows and film fragments on FSW and extrusion, we were able to get our message through.

The SMT team Sven Lundin, Dieter Andersag, Ralf Balduck and Helena, our translator, welcomed visitors from RZD, Transmashholding, several technical and research institutes, railcar builders and refurbishers, suppliers to rail interiors, metro line builders and more.

Russia has many universities working with transportation in general, mass transportation and innovative techniques. First positive result of the fair is an invitation by the **Moscow State University of Railway Engineering (MIIT)** to participate at their **VII International Scientific and Practical Conference of Students and Young Scientists "Trans-Mech-Art-chem"** with a paper on innovative techniques (extrusion and FSW) for Rolling Stock, next May. Russia's Rolling Stock market is in full development and preparing for great innovations. Sapa Mass Transportation is determined to take part in that.

Ralf Balduck
Marketing Manager

