

InnoTrans 2024: Saudi Arabia Railways Showcases Vision for Future of Rail

SAR to unveil ambitious projects and partnership opportunities at world's leading rail transport expo

Riyadh, September 19, 2024: Saudi Arabia Railways (SAR) will be participating in InnoTrans 2024, showcasing its commitment to transforming the Kingdom into a leading global logistics hub. SAR will present its vision for the future of rail in Saudi Arabia, highlighting significant progress on existing projects and unveiling new initiatives that will further enhance the Kingdom's railway infrastructure and capabilities.

Since InnoTrans 2022, SAR has made significant strides in expanding and modernizing the Saudi Arabian rail network. Passenger traffic has surged by an impressive 84%, demonstrating the growing demand for safe, efficient, and sustainable transportation within the Kingdom. To meet this demand and enhance service quality, SAR has signed a contract with Stadler to supply and maintain 20 Next Generation passenger trains for the East Railway network. Adding to this momentum, SAR will launch a luxury train service, the "Desert Dream," in late 2025. This initiative will attract tourists and offer domestic travelers a unique and opulent way to experience the beauty of Saudi Arabia.

Expanding rail network with international partners and sustainable technology

In the freight sector, SAR has partnered with Bahri Logistics to enhance its freight forwarding capabilities, streamlining import and export processes and solidifying the railway's role in facilitating trade. This commitment to freight expansion is further underscored by the progress on the landmark Landbridge project, which will connect the Kingdom's Red Sea and Arabian Gulf coasts upon its completion in 2030. With the recent selection of a project management consortium, the Landbridge project is well on its way to becoming a reality.

Simultaneously, SAR is pursuing capabilities to seamlessly connect maritime and rail networks by securing key partnerships with global shipping giants, including Maersk and MSC. While SAR and Maersk will collaborate to optimize container transport between Dammam and Riyadh, MSC Saudi signed a contract with SAR to increase container volumes on the same route aiming for greater operational efficiency. These partnerships highlight SAR's dedication to providing efficient freight solutions that capitalize on the strengths of both rail and maritime transport, positioning the company as a key player in global logistics.

SAR continues to be a leader in sustainable rail technology, having commenced trial runs for hydrogen-powered trains in Riyadh. This initiative aligns with Saudi Vision 2030 goals for reducing carbon emissions and promoting clean energy solutions.

SAR has also focused on strategic partnerships to enhance the passenger experience. Agreements with key players like Careem and Uber are seamlessly integrating rail travel with other modes of transportation, providing passengers with a convenient and comprehensive travel experience. This achievement underscores SAR's commitment to leveraging rail technology to serve the needs of the Saudi people and visitors.

Investment opportunities to drive rail innovation in the region

At InnoTrans 2024, SAR will be seeking to further these advancements by engaging with potential partners and investors. The company will present opportunities for international investors to participate in the Kingdom’s ambitious rail projects, including the Landbridge project and the expansion of freight and passenger lines. SAR is also eager to collaborate with leading technology providers to implement cutting-edge solutions in areas such as signaling, telecommunications, and digitalization, further enhancing the safety, efficiency, and sustainability of the Saudi rail network. Finally, SAR is committed to developing local talent and expertise in the railway sector and will be exploring partnerships with international institutions to facilitate knowledge transfer and training programs.

“SAR is committed to playing a pivotal role in achieving the ambitious goals set forth in Vision 2030,” said *Muhammad M. Hamidaddin - Director Corporate Marketing & Communications*. “Our participation at InnoTrans 2024 provides a platform to showcase the incredible progress we have made and to invite the global rail community to join us in shaping the future of rail in Saudi Arabia and beyond.”

Visit SAR at InnoTrans 2024 in Hall B, 330 to learn more about the exciting developments in Saudi Arabia’s rapidly evolving railway sector.

Additional images:



National railroad company SAR once again presents milestones of its transport and logistics strategy in 2024



SAR and its partners continue to invest in making Saudi Arabia a key hub for global freight