

Complex development of Murmansk Transport Hub today is one of the biggest Russian projects on port infrastructure development, the general content of those is modernisation of existing and building new high-tech complexes for transshipment of goods of different nomenclature.

The emergence of an idea of creating on the basis of Murmansk seaport a powerful, multi-functional transport unit was due to a number of important advantages it possesses.

First of all it is free access to the open ocean with a relatively low intensity of navigation and proximity to international sea routes. The port of Murmansk also has the most valuable qualities: it is ice-free, deep, and securely protected from storms.

The undoubted advantage is also a welldeveloped infrastructure on the eastern shore of Kola Bay and undeveloped areas on the western shore, that are quite convenient for the construction of new terminals.

In addition, no doubt that availability of reliable transport links with the developed industrial regions of Russia and the opportunity to use it in the transport routes from Asia to Europe and America, using the Northern Sea Route, Trans-Siberian and North-South Corridor increase the attractiveness of the port.

Finally, the proximity to the already explored shelf oil and gas deposits and the presence of the nuclear icebreaker fleet base predetermine the key role of Murmansk port in the strategic vision of the Arctic resources development.

The project Complex Development of Murmansk Transport Hub was discussed at the State Council meeting in Murmansk in May 2007, and 8 December 2008 the Government of Russian Federation issued a decree № 1821-r On the realization of complex investment project Development of the Murmansk Transport Hub.

The main objective of the project Complex Development of the Murmansk Transport Hub is the creation of all-year-round functioning deep-water hub – the centre for processing of container, oil cargo, transshipment of coal and mineral fertilizers, integrated into the international transport corridor North – South.

To achieve it is necessary to solve a number of challenges for infrastructure development of Murmansk seaport, and the related transport infrastructure in the near and far approaches to the port.

Within the project Complex Development of the Murmansk Transport Hub the following projects are to be implemented:

- Design and construction of the electrified railway line of common usage from station Vihodnoy to station Lavna;
- Coal terminal at the western shore of the Kola Bay, with a capacity of 20 million tons (the initiator and investor is Commercial Sea Port Lavna, Ltd.);
- Railway sidings for the coal terminal at the western shore of Kola Bay (the initiator and investor is Lavnatrans, Ltd.);
- An oil terminal at the western shore of the Kola Bay capacity of 35 million tons (the initiator and investor is Synthez Petroleum company);
- Container terminal on the eastern shore of Kola Bay with the capacity of 1 million TEU's;
- Modernization of the coal terminal at the eastern shores of Kola Bay (the initiator is the Murmansk Commercial Sea Port);
- Additional equipment of the Kola Bay area;
- Construction of engineering infrastructure objects providing the operation of transshipment terminals;
- Creation of objects of complex security system and automated systems of dispatcher services, facilities for the operation of border guard units and customs authorities.

Considering the importance of Murmansk Transport Hub for the development of international transport corridors, its role in the development of the transport system of Russia, as well as

Investments that will be required for its construction, the project is carried out based on public-private partnership.

State participation in the project will provide a comprehensive approach to its implementation, in which the construction of new port terminals by private investors will be coordinated with the construction of common rail and road ways to Murmansk seaport, and the development of necessary transport hub infrastructure.

Implementation of projects to build port facilities will be carried out at the expense of investors and extrabudgetary sources.

One of the mechanisms that allow to reduce costs for the construction of new terminals at the port of Murmansk, and to expedite project implementation, as well as to attract investors and new participants of the project is a special port economic zone, which is currently being created on the territory of the Murmansk region in accordance with the Russian Federation Government Decree № 800 of 12 October 2010.

The project Complex Development of the Murmansk Transport Hub is implemented by state institution Rostransmodernizatsiya, subordinate to the Federal Ministry of Transport of Russia, in cooperation with JSC MC MTH under the subprogram Development of export of transport services FTP Development of Transport of Russia (2010-2015).

The choice of contractors to perform design work is carried out through open tenders.

So the development of investment feasibility study for the project Complex Development of the Murmansk Transport Hub was made by JSC Special Economic Zones, involving design companies specializing in specific kinds of work.

As part of the development of investment feasibility study in this project, the world's leading experts, as well as major transport companies have confirmed the technical feasibility and economic feasibility of development of Murmansk Transport Hub.

The main outcomes of the project Complex Development of the MTH should be:

- Creation of equal international competitive opportunities for the port of Murmansk, that will contribute to a significant increase in export and transit potential of Russia, due to increase in future export and transit cargo flows and the strengthening of foreign economic relations, as well as increase the participation of the Murmansk region in the international cooperation process;
- Integration of the transport system of the Murmansk region in all-Russian transportation system and as a result of it support the growth of the economic potential of North-West region and the Russian Federation, the significant strengthening of the competitive advantages of the transport system of Russia as a whole;
- Diversification of petroleum and coal export system through the port of Murmansk, the formation of competitive transport schemes for the export of bulk commodities transported with the large tonnage cargo ships with the deadweight up to 300 tons;
- Upgrade of the transport infrastructure of the Murmansk region in line with current economic conditions and creating prerequisites for the construction of new port terminals on the West coast of the Kola Bay;
- The creation of objective conditions for the development of freight traffic on the Northern Sea Route.

Complex Development of the MTH is one of the best prepared for the implementation infrastructure projects in the Murmansk region. Its implementation will certainly be an important step towards the main goal of socio-economic development – improving the quality of life for northerners, social stability, opportunities for the realization of labour, creative potential of the most active part of the population, primarily young people – as well as create favourable conditions for solving future economic, military-strategic, scientific and research tasks of Russia in the Arctic and North Atlantic.