

Murmansk region is one of the most developed region in the North-West of Russia, occupying the territory of 145 thousand square kilometers. Favourable geographic location, non-freezing sea port, proximity of the borders with the states of European Community provide the social and economic development of the region, is compared with other regions.

The capital of Zapolyarye is hero-city Murmansk. It is the largest administrative, industrial and cultural centre above the Polar Circle. It is the place, where meet the sea, air, railway and automobile routes, where the only in the world nuclear icebreakers fleet has its base. The city is the most northern centre of international cooperation.

Murmansk region is considered to be the Northern Gateway of Russia by right, and at the same time it is the starting point of the Northern Sea Route.

The Northern Sea Route is the most important part of infrastructure of the Russian Extreme North. It links Russian Far East with Western regions of the country.

Marine transport is the only means to provide some arctic regions with cargo deliveries.

The basic link, providing the work of transport fleet in the Arctic, is the icebreakers fleet, which is under the trust management of the JSC "Murmansk Shipping Company".

Murmansk Shipping Company has at its disposal 6 operating nuclear icebreakers and 2 line diesel-electric ones.

Demand in the fleet of Murmansk shipping company in Arctic defines its future.

Murmansk Sea Commercial Port is the only non-freezing port in the North-West Russia. It takes the forth place as regards the amount of handled cargoes among the Russian ports. Yandling capacity of Murmansk port is 8,5 million tons. There 20 births in the port with the depths more than 12 meters.

After the end of dredging works, the port can process the vessels with deadweight of 120-140 thousand tons.

State Enterprise Kandalaksha Sea Commercial Port is one of the oldest enterprises in the Murmansk region. It is the third to size in Northern basin, operates round-the-year and the vessels of strengthened ice class come to the port in winter without icebreaker's steering.

Handling capacity of Kandalaksha port is 6 million tons.

The port accepts the vessels with draft up to 9,8 meters and in the nearest future the port will accept the vessels up to 50-60 thousand tons deadweight and the draft up to 14,3 meters.

The main strategy of the branch development is connected with creation of conditions ensuring safety, regularity of flights, establishment of air traffic to master cross-polar and arctic international routes, linking up the countries of the Northern America, Europe and South-East Asia by foreign carriers.

Federal Air Transport Service of Russia together with Scientific and Research Institute of Air navigation have prepared and coordinated with Ministry of Defense RF the Concept "Modernization of the OVD system used on airlines Arctica 1 (route London – Tokyo), Polyarny 1 (route USA – China), Polyarny 2, -3, -4 in the Arctic and Northern continental regions of Russia'.

JSC 'Airport "Murmansk" is intending to start reconstruction of the runway and extend it up to 3000 meters, installation of lamp-signaling equipment. As a result, airport "Murmansk" will be capable to accept air crafts of IL-96, BOING-737-400 type. The second important airport of the region is located in the city of Apatity. At present, certain procedures are carried out to make this airport to be international one, what contributes to tourism development.

Influence of international market opens new possibilities to increase the amount of tourist services by means of transit international routes establishment and facilitates the is of the service level.