

'The Railway Innovation Hub' and the Port of Malaga reach an agreement to promote economic development and innovation in Andalusia

- The Railway Innovation Hub, led by Abengoa from its vice-presidency, is an alliance of Spanish companies that aspires to become a world reference in railway innovation and a meeting point for railway needs and knowledge at an international level.
- The meeting with the Port of Malaga aims to seek joint synergies that facilitate the attraction of innovative companies and international investment.

18th september 2018 –Abengoa (MCE: ABG/P:SM), the international company that applies innovative technology solutions for sustainability in the infrastructures, energy and water sectors, through the alliance of companies 'The Railway Innovation Hub', has agreed with the Port of Malaga to work for the search for synergies and the development of lines of collaboration that help to promote economic, industrial and innovation development in Andalusia and to facilitate the attraction of companies and international investment.

The vice-president of the executive committee, Juan Carlos Cortés Rengel, accompanied by the director of the Technical Coordination of the Railway Innovation Hub, José Antonio López de la O, held a meeting with the president of the Malaga Port Authority, Paulino Plata; the director of the public entity, José Moyano, and the manager of Málagaport, Manuel Gutiérrez, within the round of institutional contacts being developed by the Hub's directors at national level and which is receiving a great reception from the institutions and companies related to the railway sector, innovation and mobility.

In this sense, the Port of Malaga has known first hand the set of initiatives that RIH is implementing at national level and has shown the support of the institution that presides over this business initiative, which already has a total of 63 associated companies, and with the support of institutions such as Adif, Ministry of Development, Junta de Andalucía (Government of Andalusia), IDEA Agency and various universities including the University of Malaga.

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The representatives of the innovation railway cluster and the port institution have addressed in the meeting the problems faced by the Port of Malaga, and other ports in the national territory, in terms of rail transport of goods from North Africa, which destination are Spain and Europe and also on issues related to intermodality between ports and cities.

In this sense, the president of the Port Authority, Paulino Plata, outlined the areas of interest of the port zone corresponding to the railway area, emphasizing that "intermodality is one of the great challenges facing logistics worldwide, so the connection of ports and rail is the key to this process". On the other hand, Plata insisted on "the need for the port to find a viable technical solution to develop the underground railway access to the port".

During the meeting, the vice-president of RIH's executive committee explained to Plata that the Hub was born just nine months ago and aims to become a world reference centre in railway innovation, promoting technology and knowledge of the railway sector at an international level through the creation of collaborative R+D+i projects, the commercialisation of technology and know-how, as well as the promotion of entrepreneurship and the provision of specialised services.

In this way, Cortés Rengel has explained that the Railway Innovation Hub initiative "represents a new model of open and collaborative innovation which, by joining forces, will strengthen the international projection of our railway ecosystem and position Andalusia and Spain in an even more attractive place in terms of innovation and railway knowledge".

About Abengoa

Abengoa (MCE: ABG/P:SM) applies innovative technology solutions for sustainability in the infrastructures, energy and water sectors. (www.abengoa.com)

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