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NEXT STATION 2015: All the key players involved in the development and operation of railway stations will meet in Marrakech from 21 – 23 October

The overarching theme of the conference is “Rethinking Stations for Future Intermobility”

(Paris/Rabat, 5 October 2015) From 21 – 23 October during NEXT STATION 2015, Marrakech will be station capital of the world. It is in this city of Morocco that the 5th International Conference on Railway Stations will take place, jointly organised by the International Union of Railways (UIC) and Moroccan State Railways (ONCF), under the High Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI.

The Kingdom of Morocco was naturally chosen as the venue for this 5th International NEXT STATION Conference due to the fact that the development of its railway network and stations is a strategic issue, and part of a mobility policy to promote economic and social progress. An ambitious programme to construct new stations or upgrade existing stations has been implemented in Morocco, in conjunction with the launch of the first high speed train services and to improve intercity and regional routes, to serve the whole population.

The 5th International NEXT STATION Conference, which follows the successful edition held in Moscow in October 2013, will attract a large number of decision-makers and stakeholders from all continents to address issues related to the planning, financing, design and operation of railway and multimodal stations.

The overarching theme of the conference is *“Rethinking Stations for Future Intermobility”*. The aim is not only to optimise stations as a key component of the rail transport chain, but also to improve the interfaces with all types of transport (multimodal), and more generally, the interfaces with the public and the surrounding economic and social activity (city).

High-level speakers and panellists from across the world will have the opportunity share experiences and good practices on a wide range of topics including the creation, development and operation of stations, project financing, station management, economic enhancement, the station and the city, activity in stations, the environmentally-friendly station, security as the new major issue, multimodality, accessibility, etc.

In addition to the official opening in the presence of ministers from Morocco and Africa, and a large number of directors of railway companies and organisations, NEXT STATION 2015 will include two round tables during the plenary session. The themes of the first and second round tables respectively are *“International cooperation for better intermobility”* and *“Trends and challenges of intermobility”*.

The conference programme will feature eight parallel sessions, a poster session, as well as a trade fair for all railway partners specialising in products or services related to railway stations. On 23 October, a programme of technical visits (stations, new line) will be offered to participants.

The Honorary Committee of the International NEXT STATION 2015 Conference is composed of the Ministers of the Kingdom of Morocco and Africa, as well as leading figures representing international railway organisations and railways from various regions across the world.

NEXT STATION 2015 will take place at the Palmeraie Resort, which comprises the conference centre and the hotels Palmeraie Palace and the Palace Golf Hotel.

Further information regarding the conference can be found by consulting the dedicated website: <http://www.nextstation2015.com/>

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