

TRAKO 2025 – The 16th Edition of the Largest Railway Fair in Central and Eastern Europe is Behind Us

From 23–26 September 2025, the 16th edition of the International Railway Fair TRAKO – the most important railway industry event in Central and Eastern Europe – took place in Gdańsk. This year's fair brought together 695 exhibitors from 29 countries and 25,363 participants from 49 countries.

The event marked the beginning of the celebration of the centenary of Polish State Railways (PKP), as well as the 200th anniversary of railways worldwide. The date of the fair was close to the symbolic birthday of the railway: on 27 September 1825, the Stockton–Darlington line was ceremonially opened. Both the 200th anniversary of world railways and the 100th anniversary of PKP provided an opportunity not only to present technical and organizational achievements, but also to reflect on the history and future of rail transport.

The official opening of TRAKO was graced by the participation of the Prime Minister, Donald Tusk, underlining the importance of railways both in the history of Polish transport and in the government's upcoming decisions. Rail transport was showcased as one of the key branches of transportation and a symbol of modernity and innovation.

The centerpiece of the opening was the debate *“Competitiveness and Financing of Railways in the EU”*, organized by the TRAKO Program Council. The discussion focused on key issues:

- EU railway financing as a pillar of the community's sustainable development,
- the potential of European railways in the decarbonization of the economy and implementation of EU policies,
- infrastructure financing in the context of the new financial perspective,
- the role of railways in the reconstruction of Ukraine and Poland's importance as a railway hub between Ukraine and Western Europe.

The debate featured: Alan Beroud – Chairman of UIC, Vice-Chairman of CER, CEO of PKP S.A.; Alberto Mazzola – Executive Director of CER; Michael Peter – Chairman of the Board of UNIFE; Oana Gherghinescu – Executive Director of the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA); Piotr Malepszak – Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Infrastructure; and Wojciech Balczun – Minister of State Assets.

The first day of the fair abounded with premieres and product launches, including:

- Presentation of the 300th IMPULS vehicle produced by NEWAG S.A.
- Premiere of PESA's GAMA 3.0 locomotives.
- Presentation of the three-car Alstom Talent Alpha Trains diesel multiple unit.
- Presentation of the 1,000th vehicle delivered to a Polish customer – Mazovian Railways.

An important part of the program were expert debates, including the 5th Infrastructure Debate: *Financing infrastructure and R&D and implementation programs against the backdrop of challenges for railways in Europe – safety and reindustrialization*, with the participation of representatives of the Ministry of Infrastructure, PKP S.A., PKP PLK S.A., the Chamber of Land Transport, and the Railway Research Institute. Discussions also touched upon the role of railways in national and European security systems.

The first day ended with a gala attended by 1,200 representatives of exhibitors, business partners, and government administration.

Traditionally, the last day of the fair was dedicated to education and future sector professionals. The 5th Education and Career Day attracted students from technical schools and universities, who had the opportunity to learn about employers' offers, take professional CV photos, participate in an eco-driving competition, and attend a railway uniform fashion show.

There was no shortage of attractions for both exhibitors and the public – outdoors, exciting handcar races were held, providing a lighter complement to the serious discussions taking place inside the exhibition halls. More than 30 well-prepared exhibitor teams took part, already arranging rematches with the podium winners. Participants of the Education and Career Day formed 17 teams. Each participant received a commemorative medal.

Organizers are already accepting applications for the next edition. The 17th International Railway Fair TRAKO will take place on 21–24 September 2027.

Organizers:

PKP Group
AMBEREXPO – Gdańsk International Fair Co.

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Office of Rail Transport

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