

Presentation of Russian Transport Universities

Представляем российские транспортные университеты

Editorial article

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Emperor Alexander I St. Petersburg State Transport University is the first engineering and transportation university in Russia. It was founded on November 20 (December 2), 1809, by the Manifesto of Emperor Alexander I, the highest state legal act, as the Institute of the Corps of Railway Engineers. The first rector (inspector) and organizer of the Institute – Augustin Betancourt (1758–1824) – an outstanding engineer, scientist, architect and builder, statesman of Spain and Russia, was invited to serve personally by Emperor Alexander in 1808.

From 1924 the University was called the Leningrad Institute of Transport Engineers, from 1930 it was called the Leningrad Institute of Railway Engineers (LIIZhT), on the basis of its faculties four independent universities were created: the Leningrad Institute of Water Transport Engineers (1930), Leningrad Institute of Civil Air Fleet Engineers (1930), Leningrad Road Institute (1931), and Military Transport Academy (1938).

In 1993, LIIZhT received the status of a university and its modern name; in 2014, the name of its founder, Emperor Alexander I, was returned to the name of the university. Initially, the Institute trained railway specialists of a wide profile. In the late 1830s, in connection with the beginning of the construction of railways in Russia, special sections related to the new type of transport – the most advanced in the XIX century – railway – were included in the curriculum of the course of construction art.

The activity of professors and graduates of the Institute ensured the construction of the most important railways of the country: St. Petersburg – Moscow, Transsib (Great Siberian Way), Turksib (Turkestan – Siberian Railway), Baikal – Amur Mainline (BAM), etc.; construction of subways in Moscow, Leningrad and other cities; the largest bridges, tunnels, canals, ports, hydroelectric power plants, creation of ground transportation infrastructure of Baikonur Cosmodrome, etc.



In the XX century the scientists of the Institute laid the foundations of scientific approach to the creation of aviation and automobile transport, introduction of electric and diesel locomotive traction on railways, advanced traffic control systems. Currently, scientists and specialists of the University are actively involved in the implementation of the largest infrastructure projects of the country: modernization of BAM and Transsib, development of the Moscow transport hub, creation of high-speed railways, construction of the Crimean Bridge, etc.

In 2021, as a result of a competitive selection process, the university entered the state program for the development of higher education organizations as part of the implementation of strategic academic leadership "Priority 2030".

For great merits in the development of transport and training of specialists the university was awarded the highest state awards of the USSR: the Order

of Lenin (1945) and the Order of October Revolution (1984). In the structure of the university (2023): 2 institutes, 7 faculties, 13 branches, including 2 branches implementing programs of higher and secondary vocational education, 13 branches – secondary vocational education; library – the oldest (1809) and the largest, specializing in engineering and technical literature (more than 1.3 million items of storage, including the fund of rare books, manuscripts and drawings); museum; out-of-town geodesic base with scientific and educational railway training ground. Periodicals of the university: "Bulletin of St. Petersburg University of Railway Transport" (1884), magazine "Transport of the Russian Federation" (2005), "BRICS Transport" (2022) and others. The university has more than 20 thousand students (2023). PGUPS has wide and versatile international relations. More than 10 % of the contingent of students studying in higher education programs are foreigners.

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