

## Invitation to the 45<sup>th</sup> Watford Conference 21<sup>st</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> October 2010, Strasbourg, France

Paris, July 29th, 2010

Dear Friends and Colleagues !

In the name of The Watford Group, French Railways' SNCF Station Directorate « Gares & Connexions », and its subsidiary AREP are happy to invite you to the 45<sup>th</sup> Watford Conference which will take place in Paris and Strasbourg from the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

### ***New Conference format***

As decided at the General Assembly 2009 in Ronda, Spain, this year's Conference has some new features.

- 1) To better adapt to individual schedule necessities, the Conference program is structured differently :
  - a. A **Core program** with presentations and discussions in Strasbourg, taking place Friday and Saturday.
  - b. A first travel and visit option (**Option 1.1**) starting in Paris late Wednesday evening and arriving in Strasbourg Thursday evening, for those who are able to travel to Paris Wednesday afternoon.
  - c. For those who can only travel to Paris Thursday morning, a second travel and visit option (**Option 1.2**) starting in Paris Thursday at 13:30, by in fact rejoining the first group at Gare de l'Est station and then continuing with them to Strasbourg.
  - d. A third travel and visit option (**Option 2**) from Strasbourg back to Paris at Sunday, scheduled to arrive in Paris at 16:05 and at Charles-de-Gaulle airport (CDG) at 16:35, with a possible "short-cut" arriving in Paris at 12:50 and at CDG at 13:20.
  
- 2) To minimize the Conference fee, accommodation level is standard (IBIS hotel chain) and train travel is in 2<sup>nd</sup> class except for the trip from Paris to Reims in Option 1.1.

### ***Conference program***

You have already been informed in previous e-mails about the general outline of the Conference program. Please find the detailed and updated version enclosed.

## ***Call for presentations***

Please remember that the reason of being of the Conference is to show to your colleagues what is happening in the field of railway design in your country or in your company. So please do not hesitate to make even a small 3 or 5 minutes presentation if your current activity does not allow for more. And keep in mind that you can (and should) also present projects that are still on the drawing board.

As always, you are asked to show your current projects through a 10 to 12 minutes presentation, as part of the **Free presentations** section of the program.

In addition, you are invited to contribute to the **Theme presentations** section.

This year's conference theme is "**Cooperation / Competition**".

The opening up of the European rail transport market introduces new competition and new challenges. How do station and rolling stock designers react to this situation ? Are there new needs for flexibility and adaptability ? Does integrating the needs and requirements from various operators change the design, and if yes, for the better or for the worse ?

If you are not from Europe, how is the situation in your country ?

Please show us how cooperation / competition affect or have affected your design work and how you do react.

## ***Inscription***

Please fill out the enclosed inscription form and send it back by e-mail to [andreas.heym@arep.fr](mailto:andreas.heym@arep.fr), with a copy to [samira.difallah@arep.fr](mailto:samira.difallah@arep.fr).

Please note that you must do this before the 10<sup>th</sup> of September and ideally as soon as possible. Please remember that we will only consider the reception of the completed official inscription form as a valid inscription. So even if you have already told us informally that you will come, please fill out the form and send it to us.

## ***Fees and payment***

Following the new conference format, the fees for the individual modules are as follows. They are unfortunately a little higher than the fees that I had announced in my last e-mail, but still significantly lower than the fees of previous conferences.

**Conference in Strasbourg**

Core program (22-23 Oct) 450 €

This module is mandatory and you have to take it if you want to assist at the Conference.

**Travel and visits from Paris to Strasbourg**

Option 1.1 (20-21 Oct) 280 €

Option 1.2 (21 Oct) 120 €

**Travel and visits from Strasbourg to Paris**

Option 2 (24 Oct) 180 €

For the details of each module, please check the enclosed conference program.

You can combine these modules in six different ways. You have to chose and to pay one of the following combinations :

<b>Combination 1 :</b>	Core program + Option 1.1 + Option 2	<b>910 €</b>
<b>Combination 2 :</b>	Core program + Option 1.2 + Option 2	<b>750 €</b>
<b>Combination 3 :</b>	Core program + Option 1.1	<b>730 €</b>
<b>Combination 4 :</b>	Core program + Option 1.2	<b>570 €</b>
<b>Combination 5 :</b>	Core program + Option 2	<b>630 €</b>
<b>Combination 6 :</b>	Core program only	<b>450 €</b>

For technical reasons, we still have not settled for a **mode of payment** (wire transfer to a bank account or internet credit card payment). We will inform you within the next days or so about the mode of payment chosen and send you at the same time all the necessary information. But please do not wait for this to send us back the inscription form !

Your inscription will become definitely valid once we have received your payment.

Waiting to see you in France !

Best regards



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