



## LATVIJAS REPUBLIKAS SATIKSMES MINISTRIJA SABIEDRISKO ATTIECĪBU NODAĻA

Gogoļa ielā 3, Rīgā, LV-1743, tālr. 67028261, fakss 67028363, e-pasts: sab\_nod@sam.gov.lv

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### Three Baltic States launch Rail Baltica Feasibility Study

**Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia are launching feasibility study for Rail Baltica corridor to find out if construction of a new 1435 mm gauge European standard railway line is feasible and what would be the costs and benefits for the countries concerned.**

Outputs of the Study will provide the governments of the Baltic States and the European Union with a comprehensive and well-founded base for making further decisions on construction of 1435 mm gauge railway line, as well as the best feasible development option for such a railway line over the whole corridor of Rail Baltica.

Based on the results of the Study, Latvia Lithuania and Estonia will make the decision when the new EU standard railway line can be developed.

Contract on carrying out the Feasibility Study is concluded with the winner of an open tender – AECOM Ltd. from the United Kingdom. The Study is to be completed in early 2011.

Elaboration of the Study will be supervised by an international Steering Committee, composed of representatives from respective authorities of the three countries concerned. On 6<sup>th</sup> of April the project kick-off meeting was held in Riga to discuss the organization of work between the Contracting Authorities and AECOM Ltd.

Rail Baltica Feasibility Study is included in Trans-European Transport Network 2007-2013 multi-annual programme approved by European Commission. Within the programme, the project has been assigned Community funding of 50% of the total project costs. The national funding of 50% is provided from state budget resources of each country concerned. The total cost of the Feasibility Study amounts to EUR 396 000.

The open tender procedure for Rail Baltica Feasibility Study was announced in October 2009 and 10 tenderers from Spain, United Kingdom, Finland, France, Germany and Latvia submitted their proposals. The winner of the tender – AECOM Ltd. – is a global provider of professional technical and management support services to a broad range of markets, including transportation, facilities, environmental, energy, water and government. With approximately 45 000 employees, the company serves clients in more than 100 countries including the three Baltic States.