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## Modernised Main Station in Pardubice Will Bring Higher Comfort to Passengers, Trains Will Be Faster and More Silent

The Central Committee of the Ministry of Transport approved the project intent of modernisation of the railway junction Pardubice which was submitted by the future construction investor – Správa železniční dopravní cesty. Modernisation of railway infrastructure at Pardubice Main Station will allow decreasing noise and increasing speed of passing trains. Passengers will have at their disposal repaired centre platforms with barrier-free access, a new orientation system, station radio, lifts and escalators. Estimated investment costs will exceed CZK 4 billion. During the first phase, the construction will be financed from national resources; however, co-financing by the EU is also expected. The construction should be launched already in 2019; works will take three years to complete.

*“We welcome the decision of the Central Committee of the Ministry of Transport which gave a green light to the preparation of this important and demanding project. The station modernised for a cost four billion Czech crowns will provide higher safety, smooth operation and last but not least higher comfort to passengers. They will have at their disposal new station furniture, an information system or modern underpasses. Pardubice inhabitants will surely also welcome building a new footbridge which will assure a safe and comfortable connection between the Northern and Southern part of the city with access to platforms”, says Mr. Petr Hofhanzl, Director of the Construction Planning Section of Správa železniční dopravní cesty.*

The planned reconstruction presents rebuilding a substantial part of the railway station's trackage, building a new centre Platform No 5 and a related extension of the arrival and departure underpass. Current platforms will undergo complete modernisation as well with an edge height of 550 mm above the body of the rail, i.e. on the level of the modern railway vehicles' floor which will facilitate considerably boarding and leaving trains. The station will be equipped with a new information and orientation system, a radio and acoustic beacons for sightless passengers. Access to all platforms will be assured by underpasses which will be equipped with escalators. Barrie-free access will be assured by lifts in the departure underpass. The project includes also a connection of the station forecourt and the Southern part of the city of Pardubice which will be ensured by a new barrier-free footbridge.

Trackage is also going to be modernised, especially the railway superstructure and substructure, as well as signalling and safety equipment and dispatching traffic control installations. Builders will also deal with bridges and culverts, underground facilities and power installations.

Current line speed in main station through tracks equals 100 kph and in direction to Rosice nad Labem only 40 kph. When modernisation is completed, line parameters of the Pardubice junction will improve so that trains will be able to pass the station at speeds up to 160 kph. Moreover, their ride will be much more silent thanks to using elastic rail fastening to switches.

Higher safety will be assured by new station signalling and safety equipment Category 3 – a full-fledged electronic signal box. It will be run by dispatchers from the Traffic Control Centre in Prague. The construction at Pardubice Main Station will also include implementation of the European Train Control System (ETCS) and a modification of the Automatic Train Operation System (AVV). As an integral part, a new catenary will be installed with a DC system of 3 kV allowing speeds up to 160 kph.

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