

[Home](#) >> [Business](#)

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German maglev giant pledges to transfer more technological know-how to China

The world's leading maglev technology provider, German company Transrapid International GmbH, said on Friday that it hoped to continue collaboration with China on relevant technology.

"We are very much looking forward to being engaged in the Chinese market in a more in-depth way, while localizing our technology here in China", said Helmut Gehne, the Chief Representative of Transrapid International GmbH, at the China Railworld Summit 2006.

Gehne said he expected the National Development and Reform Commission(NDRC) to approve his company's participation in the Shanghai-Hangzhou Maglev Line very soon and he valued it as a golden chance to enhance mutual exchanges.

Gehne is also the representative of ThyssenKrupp Transrapid GmbH, another leading maglev technology provider in Germany.

The two German companies provided the core technologies for the Shanghai Maglev project, which marked the world's first commercial operation of a maglev line in 2004. Its passenger volume is around 10,000 per day.

The Shanghai maglev track has proved to be very successful in terms of business returns, said Gehne. We plan to invest further in the maglev sector in China and pass on more technological know-how, he said. Addressing the summit, he said the planned Inter-city Transportation Network, involving the Yangtze Delta, the Pearl River Delta, and the Beijing-Tianjin-Bo'hai Sea region, will make a big difference to people's lifestyles.

We anticipate the 8,000-kilometer high-speed nationwide network will be completed soon, he said.

In mid-September, ThyssenKrupp Transrapid GmbH threatened the German government with the transfer of core maglev technology know-how to China if the government remains vague on the launch of the Munich Maglev Project 18 months after the company's application.

The Germany transport authorities have confirmed that the 1.85 billion euro Munich Project is still under consideration. .

Source: Xinhua