

Current State of Telecommunications in the Russian Far East and Prospects for Their Development

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Despite the existence in Russia of a complicated economic and political situation and some negative factors influencing the development of telecommunications, economic indicators of telecommunication organizations in the Russian Far East look fairly stable, when compared with indicators of the region's industries.

During seven years of reform, Russia has experienced a spurt in the development of telecommunications. A main telecommunication network has been created in the country, with three outlets (Kingisepp, Nakhodka, and Novorossiisk) opening respectively into the Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, and the Mediterranean Sea, and with five out-of-capital international stations (Khabarovsk, Ekaterinburg, Novosibirsk, Samara, and Rostov-on-Don), connected by trunk communication links.

At present, the construction of the fiber-optic trunk link between Moscow and Khabarovsk is nearly complete. Putting it into operation will make it possible to connect two high-capacity Internet hubs in Moscow and in Khabarovsk, belonging to the joint-stock company "Rostelecom," which will drastically improve the quality of the services rendered.

The prospects for the development of telecommunications in the Russian Far East are connected with the following.

The first is to increase the reliability of communication services rendered. For this purpose Russian telecommunication companies are participating in international satellite projects and also are orienting themselves to the creation of their own space communication networks. The satellite communication will make it possible to solve communication problems with the northern regions of Russia, where construction of fiber-optic cable is economically unrealistic.

The second is to expand the geographical coverage of communication services, by developing telecommunications in the Far East region.