

## TRANSPORT COMPLEX OF TURKMENISTAN



*Turkmenistan continues large-scale implementation of projects for the construction and development of transport infrastructure facilities in order to further strengthen and improve the integrated transport system of the country and its integration into the international transport network of the region and of the Eurasian space as a whole for further economic prosperity. The implementation of the main and most impressive projects in this area is described in an article provided by the Transport and Communications Agency under the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan.*

Turkmenistan is proud by right with the achievements in the country's economic and social development. To ensure sustainable economic prosperity, special attention is also paid to the development of an integral modern transport complex of the country, where today a solid foundation has been laid for a new stage in its streamlining.

Thanks to the consistent policy of the head of state in the field of transport and communications in the era of all-round prosperity and development, large-scale infrastructure projects of both national and international significance are being successfully implemented. Paying special attention to the implementation of the logistics potential of the country, which has an advantageous geopolitical position and is a link between the countries of the region located on the route of the Great Silk Road, new international transit transport corridors are being created at the initiative of the nation's leader.

Listed as an example could be the following corridors: "Lapis Lazuli" (Afghanistan – Turkmenistan – Azerbaijan – Georgia – Turkey), "North – South" (Kazakhstan – Turkmenistan – Iran), corridor Uzbekistan – Turkmenistan – Iran – Oman (Ashgabat Agreement) and "West – East". The "West-East" corridor originates from the port of Turkmenbashi with an access to the Farap border crossing point with Uzbekistan and the Imamnazar and Serhetabad border crossing points with Afghanistan. This corridor, connecting the transport arteries of the entire Caspian Sea in the port of Turkmenbashi, is a kind of a distinguishing mark of Central Asia. The goods from Europe, USA and Asia pass through it. In winter, when the Volga-Don Canal, which connects the Black and Caspian Seas, is closed, the "Caucasian Corridor" is used along the route Poti – Baku – Turkmenbashi and in the opposite direction.





*President of Turkmenistan  
Serdar Berdimuhamedov*

#### *“Turkmenizderyayollary” Agency*

Turkmenistan plays one of the key roles in maritime transport in the Caspian basin. Maritime transportation is under the control of the Turkmenizderyayollary Agency, which is the central executive body in the field of water transport, authorised to carry out state administration in the field of merchant shipping and pursuing state policy in the field of water transportation within Turkmenistan.

In 2018, a new international seaport of Turk-

menbashi was opened. The total area of the port is over 150 hectares. To ensure the approach of ships to the berth, a tremendous amount of work was carried out to excavate about 10 million cubic meters of soil and deepen the seabed.

The total length of the berth with a width of 20 meters is 3600 meters, which makes it possible to receive several cargo and passenger vessels, provide their departure and required services at the port at the same time.

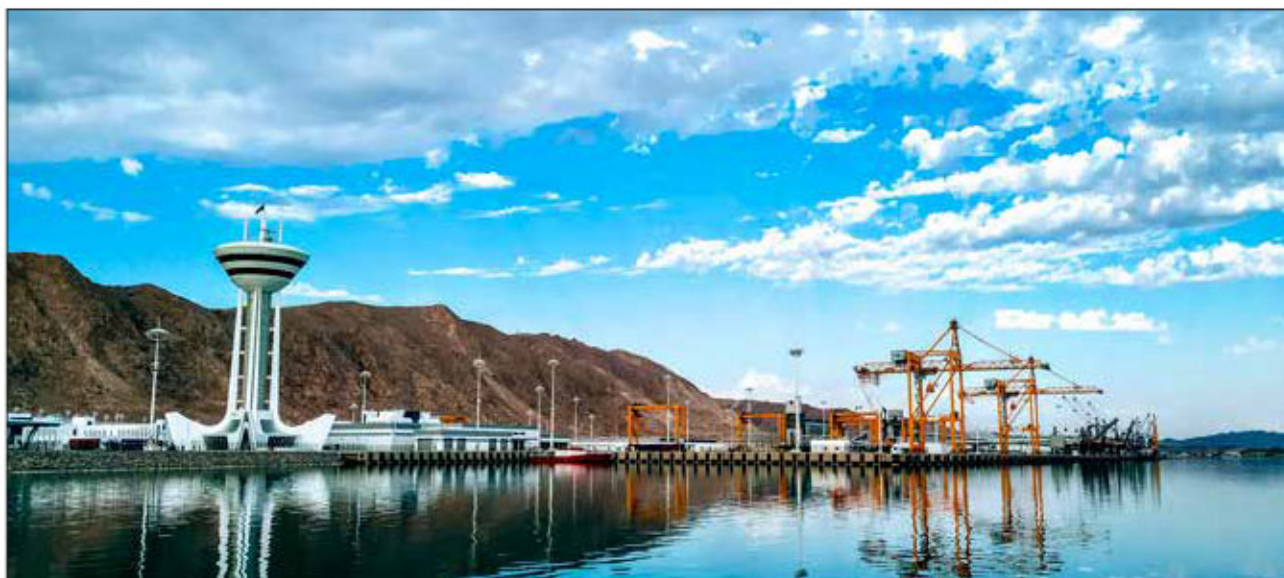
The port includes ferry and passenger terminals, container terminals, general and bulk cargo terminals.

In addition to the berthing hydraulic structures, numerous coastal infrastructure facilities have been built in the port, including those for transport support: roads with overpasses with a total length of almost 4000 meters and about 30,000 meters of railways.

The total throughput of the International Turkmenbashi Port is on average about 300 thousand passengers and 17 million tons of goods per year, without oil products, including 75 thousand trucks, 400 thousand containers, 3 million tons of bulk cargoes and 4 million tons of general cargo; it is capable of receiving 17 vessels at a time.

#### *Passenger Ferry Terminal*

The buildings of the passenger terminal make it possible to provide high-quality services to passengers, trucks and other vehicles between the seaports of the Caspian Sea. This terminal



*Turkmenbashi international sea port*



*Ferry passenger terminal in the port of Turkmenbashi*

has a technical inspection center, a disinfection building, a railway control building and a truck parking area. With a total area of 230,000 square meters, the passenger terminal is capable of providing services to 300,000 passengers and 75,000 vehicles per year. The terminal territory accommodates a hotel with rooms for total 50 guests. The terminal has a berth of 256 meters long, which is capable of receiving a train coming from one side and road vehicles – coming from the other side in the opposite direction.

The passenger terminal building has a ticket office, a currency exchange office, an information desk, a check-in desk, a quarantine zone for plants and animals, offices, a CIP-room, luggage compartments, passport control area, automated equipment, electronic gates, as well as outdoor recreation terraces.

#### Container terminal

With a total area of 249,000 square meters, the container terminal is capable of handling 400,000 containers per year. With a total berth length of 480 meters, the terminal is able to simultaneously receive 3 vessels with a total carrying capacity of up to 5000 tons, which contributes to the development of export and import operations, connecting the logistics infrastructure of Turkmenistan, railways, air and sea lines. The terminal has two shipboard cranes with a lifting capacity of 70 tons each, capable of handling 30 contain-

ers per hour, two railway cranes with a lifting capacity of 48 tons each and six wheeled cranes with a lifting capacity of 45 tons each, as well as vehicles for moving and stacking containers with a lifting capacity of 25, 45 and 50 tons. The terminal is provided with roofed warehouses with a total area of 9984 square meters, a sorting warehouse with a total area of 3060 square meters.

The Ship Control Centre was built to ensure the safe navigation of vessels entering the port and is equipped with modern world-class navigation equipment recommended by the International Maritime Organisation. In addition, a fire safety building is situated next to this building with a medical center equipped with state-of-the-art equipment.

#### Bulk cargo terminal

With a total throughput capacity of 3,000,000 tons of goods per year, the bulk cargo terminal is built to handle and store bulk cargoes such as iron ore, cement, coal, cereals, sugar, salt and other. With a berth length of 440 meters, the terminal is able to handle simultaneously 3 vessels with a total carrying capacity of up to 5000 tons each. The terminal is equipped with three railway cranes with a lifting capacity of 42 tons, two belt conveyors with a lifting capacity of 650 tons of bulk cargoes per hour, five wheel loaders with a lifting capacity of 20 tons and one mobile crane with a lifting capacity of 20 tons. In addition to grain storage, the terminal has 14 silos with a total capacity of 35,000 cubic meters and 8 cement silos with a total capacity of 6000 cubic meters. The terminal has an open warehouse with an area of 37,000 square meters and roofed warehouses with a total area of 8512 square meters.

#### General cargo terminal

The total area of the general cargo terminal is 261,000 square meters. With the capacity to han-



*Container terminal in the port of Turkmenbashi*

dle 4,000,000 tons of goods per year, the terminal is designed for loading and unloading steel, iron, timber, vehicles, equipment and heavy cargoes. With a berthing length of 625 meters, the general cargo terminal has the ability to simultaneously handle 4 vessels with a total carrying capacity of 5000 tons. This terminal has six railway cranes with a lifting capacity of 20 tons and one wheeled mobile crane with a lifting capacity of 84 tons, as well as two 330-ton cranes and a 1500-ton conveyor for heavy and oversized cargoes. There are also various forklift trucks with a lifting capacity from 3 to 60 tons. The terminal has an open warehouse with an area of 75,000 square meters and roofed warehouses with an area of 26,394 square meters.

#### *Polypropylene terminal*

The terminal is capable of processing up to 120,000 tons of polypropylene per year. It can simultaneously receive up to 3 vessels with a carrying capacity of up to 5000 tons. The terminal has a roofed warehouse with a capacity of up to 18,750 tons.

The Turkmen marine fleet includes tankers for the transportation of oil and oil products, car-passenger ferries and dry cargo ships. In order to replenish the Turkmen fleet, work has begun to organise the construction of two Ro-Ro ships and one dry cargo ship at the Balkan shipyard.

The open joint stock company “Shipbuilding

and Ship Repair Plant ‘Balkan’” in the city of Turkmenbashi is the country’s first step in the construction and repair of ships, as well as a great contribution to the development of the national economy and the country’s maritime and river transport industry.

The total area of the factory is 166,000 square meters. The production capacity of the plant makes it possible to process 10,000 tons of steel per year. With the help of modern technological equipment and

automation systems that meet international requirements, it is possible to manufacture up to 4-6 vessels. This production facility has all the necessary conditions for handling 2000 tons of steel and performing the repair work on 20-30 ships.

The shipbuilding and repair plant is equipped with a system for launching and moving ships with a carrying capacity of up to 10,000 tons, in order to launch newly built and repaired ships and bring up ships from the water for repairs.

The wheeled port crane with a lifting capacity of 84 tons and the rail cranes with a lifting capacity of 42, 64, 80 tons are used for various industrial purposes. The plant administration regulates in a coordinated manner the work of various departments, such as departments for ship design, project management, supply, repair, production, maintenance, quality and labour safety.

#### *Agency “Turkendemiryollary”*

The contribution of the railway of Turkmenistan to the development of the transport sector of the country is very much notable. There are a total of 12 connecting border crossing points, namely Serkhetyaka (Kazakhstan), Tallymerdzhen, Takhyatash, Farap and junction 161 (Uzbekistan), Imamnazar and Serkhetabad (Afghanistan), Sarakhs, Artyk and Akyayla



*The first train on the railway line Atamurat – Imamnazar (Turkmenistan) – Akina (Afghanistan) (28.11.2016, Imamnazar border station)*

(Iran). The total length of the railway network of Turkmenistan is more than 5000 kilometers. At present, the Turkmenistan Railways are possessed of an extensive fleet of freight wagons for high-quality railway freight transportation, such as roofed and open-top hopper wagons, refrigerators, tanks and fitting flat wagons. Noting the favourable geostrategic position of Turkmenistan and its importance in strengthening the transport connectivity of the region, the railway line Kazakhstan – Turkmenistan – Iran (North – South) is very significant. The capacity of this railway corridor is

more than 20,000,000 tons per year. This branch connects the countries of Central Asia with the countries of the Persian Gulf in the most profitable way. Turkmenistan is actively cooperating with neighbouring countries to implement grandiose projects. The Serhetabat (Turkmenistan) – Turgundi (Afghanistan) railway, part of the Lapis-Lazuli transport and transit corridor, was put into operation in February 2018. The railway line Kerki – Imamnazar – Akina, put into operation in autumn 2016, is

the first link of the Asian International Transport and Transit Corridor. On a regular basis, work is carried out to upgrade the wagon and locomotive fleets of Turkmenistan. At the railway stations Etrek and Sarakhs there are freight yards and open, roofed warehouses where bogies are rearranged; at present, there are all the necessary conditions for the passage of more than 400 wagons. There are also well-equipped freight yards in Kipchak, Etrek, Dashoguz, Bizmein, Geokdepe, Sarakhs, Altyn Asyr, Anau, Tedjen, Kakhka and Mary, which are scattered throughout the country.



*Central railway station in the city of Ashgabat*

### *Agency “Turkmenhowayollary”*

Foreign economic relations in the air transport industry are organised on the basis of international agreements concluded with foreign countries, and on the basis of international conventions in the field of civil aviation. Thus, the industry is a party to more than 50 different agreements with foreign countries, as well as a member of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), the Council on the Use of Airspace, the Interstate Aviation Committee, and interacts with the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA).

The civil aviation of Turkmenistan, changing year after year at a rapid pace, successfully fulfills its own tasks to meet the various needs in the national economy of Turkmenistan and in the medicine sphere in the interests of the country's population, such as air transportation of passengers, luggage, cargoes and mail, in ensuring the movement of airplanes in the airspace of Turkmenistan.

Today, the Civil Aviation of Turkmenistan represents a multifunctional system: international airports in Ashgabat, Turkmenbashi, Turkmenabad, Dashoguz, Mary, as well as Kerki International Airport, which are capable of receiving all types of aircraft. In addition to the international airports, a school for training aviation personnel, a Medical Center, the Lachin Hotel Complex and the Turkmenistan Airlines Open Joint-Stock Company, as well as a number of other aviation organisations that provide a unified production and technological process for the safe performance of air transportation and air-traffic operations, as well as provision of transit corridors for the airspace of Turkmenistan, are worth mentioning.

The enterprises of the Civil Aviation industry of Turkmenistan provide the following types

of services.

**Airport services:**

- ensuring the takeoff and landing of aircraft (AC);
- air navigation support;
- ensuring aviation security;
- provision of an aircraft parking space (extra);
- use of the airport terminals.

**Ground services:**

- handling of air-borne cargoes;
- passenger services;
- handling of various types of cargoes;
- provision of services for aircraft crews;
- medical examination of crews;
- delivery of crews to the aircraft and back.

#### 1. Characteristics of the airfield of the Ashgabat International Airport

The Ashgabat International Airport operates around the clock in all weather conditions. The runway has all the necessary technical characteristics and is equipped with all the necessary technical facilities to service aircraft of any type. The airport has thirty-eight artificial taxiways (TACs); as well as an apron for 69 aircraft stands and 8 helicopter stands. The airport's capacity is 17,000,000 passengers per year.



*The new building of the international airport in Ashgabat, built in the shape of a white bird, impresses with its beauty, unusual architectural solutions, volume of premises, satisfying the growing transport needs of the country in ensuring economic, trade and cultural ties*



*International airport in Turkmenbashi*

2. Characteristics of the airfield of the Turkmenbashi International Airport

The Turkmenbashi International Airport operates around the clock in all weather conditions. The runway has all the necessary technical characteristics and is equipped with all the necessary technical facilities to service aircraft of any type. The airport has four artificial taxiways, as well as an apron for 14 aircraft stands and 2 landing sites for helicopters.

3. Characteristics of the airfield of the Dashoguz International Airport

The international airport in Dashoguz operates around the clock in all weather conditions. The runway has all the necessary technical characteristics and is equipped with all the necessary technical facilities to service aircraft of any type. There are five artificial taxiways, as well as an apron for 10 aircraft stands.

4. Characteristics of the airfield of the Turkmenabat International Airport

The international airport in Turkmenabat operates around the clock in all weather conditions. The runway has all the necessary technical characteristics and is equipped with all the

necessary technical facilities to service aircraft of any type. The airport has five artificial taxiways, as well as an apron for 8 aircraft stands and 4 helicopter stands.

5. Characteristics of the airfield of the International Airport in Mary

The Mary International Airport operates around the clock in all weather conditions. The runway has all the necessary technical characteristics and is equipped with all the necessary technical facilities to service aircraft of any type. The airport has 10 artificial taxiways, as well as an apron for 11 aircraft stands and 3 landing sites for helicopters.



*The civil aviation of Turkmenistan, changing year after year at a rapid pace, successfully carries out its tasks of transporting passengers and cargoes, occupying a significant place in the transport system of the country*

### *Agency “Turkmenavtoulaglary”*

In order to meet the needs of the population of Turkmenistan in road transport, in ensuring high quality passenger transportation, as well as in servicing the population by road transport, the relevant departments and subdivisions of the “Turkmenavtoulaglary” Agency carry out passenger transportation along 607 routes, of which 168 are urban, 336 - suburban and 103 - intercity routes. Meanwhile, the relevant departments provide high-quality and cultural bus services for passenger transportation on request.

In order to meet the needs of the population and provide high-quality and cultural services, 26 bus routes have been opened and 22 bus routes have been modified since the beginning of 2021.

Modern taxi cars, purchased by order of the President of Turkmenistan, provide passengers with high-quality and cultural taxi services in the capital and velayats of the country.

With the purpose of providing high-quality and cultural transportation services and create favourable conditions for passengers, a system of non-cash electronic payments has been introduced in city buses in the capital city of the country. The taxi cars were equipped with special devices for paying for services via the Internet. Meanwhile, the GPS/GLONASS systems were installed on buses, passenger cars, taxis and trucks at the disposal of enterprises in

the velayats. It is possible to purchase tickets via the Internet for buses running on the intercity and suburban routes.

The trucks are also widely used in various sectors of the national economy: in the construction industry, as well as for the transportation of grain and other crops grown in Turkmenistan. In addition, trucks with semi-trailers with a KAMAZ 5490 (4x2) truck tractor and a NEFAZ-93341 tow truck are located at checkpoints across the State border and are widely used in the transportation of goods throughout the country.

As part of the “Turkmenavtoulaglary” Agency in 2020, the Freight Forwarding Company “Ulag Expeditorchylyk Khyzmatlary” was established, which has been successfully operating in the market of transport logistics services for more than 1.5 years.

Currently, the company provides a full range of transport and logistics services related to the carriage of goods on the territory of Turkmenistan.

Each vehicle of the Freight Forwarding Company “Ulag Expeditorchylyk Khyzmatlary” is equipped with a GPS tracker to monitor the vehicle, and a permit is issued to travel throughout Turkmenistan.

In addition, the Freight Forwarding Company “Ulag Expeditorchylyk Khyzmatlary” is currently in a possession of long-term contracts with motor transport companies.

Considering the high degree of responsibil-



*International passenger bus station in Ashgabat*





*Bus transportation in Turkmenistan has been constantly evolving: modern buses operate on the lines, many stops have been equipped with air conditioning systems for cooling in summer and heating in winter, with automatic sliding doors and other amenities for passengers, as well as retail outlets with essentials have been opened thereto*

ity in the implementation of forwarding and transportation of goods, in order to confirm a high degree of reliability, the Freight Forwarding Company “Ulag Expeditorchylyk Khyzmatlary” cooperates with leading insurance agencies.

The international road freight transportation is carried out through the checkpoints Artyk, Altyn Asyr, Khovdan and Sara-khs (Iran), Dashoguz, Tal-lymerdzhen, Kunyaugench and Farap (Uzbekistan), Garabogaz (Kazakhstan), Serekhetabad and Imamnazar (Afghanistan).

*Open joint stock company “Transport and Logistics Center of Turkmenistan” (TLCT OJSC)*

Moreover, in order to increase the freight traffic passing through the territory of Turkmenistan, the TLCT OJSC was established in 2018, the founders and shareholders of which are all transport departments of Turkmenistan. The “Transport and Logistics Center

of Turkmenistan” OJSC organises the transportation of goods by various modes of transport, including multimodal transportation, combining road, rail, air, sea and container transportation, by dispatching goods from the place where the cargo was loaded to its destination, as well as provides services for storage, loading and unloading of goods and customs clearance.

For the purpose of timely, efficient and high-quality provision of these services, as well as coordination of relevant decisions related to the transport and goods, there are qualified representatives in each velayat of Turkmenistan, as well as

in the international port of Turkmenbashi. At the moment, the issue of opening a branch of TLCT OJSC in the Russian Federation, as well as representative offices in such countries as the Republic of Turkey, the People’s Republic of China, the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of India has been considered. ■



*Open-type joint stock company “Transport and Logistics Center of Turkmenistan” provides transportation of goods by various modes of transport, including multimodal services by using road, rail, air and sea transport*