

Newsletter



Dear Railway Professionals and Associates,

The International Heavy Haul STS Conference is now only a week away. Wherever you may be, I hope you are gearing up and getting ready to take part in our “Heavy Haul Olympics” under the midnight sun!

As you know, our Opening Session will take place on the morning of Wednesday, 12 June. Prior to that, the Best Practice and Technologies Workshop will get things underway on the Monday and Tuesday. On the Tuesday night, there will also be an opportunity to meet and greet your fellow professionals at our special Welcome Event.

Please note that while the Opening Session will take place at Narvik’s Cultural Hall by the town square, all the other sessions and the Welcome Event will be hosted at the Arctic University in Narvik. Finding a suitable venue for a conference of this size in a small town like Narvik is a challenge, and the contribution of the University as a conference partner is invaluable to our event.

When we gather for the gala dinner on Thursday night, the regular occupants of Narvik’s old steam locomotive workshop will be shunted aside to provide an unusual and exotic setting, where the rich Navy heritage of Narvik and the Ofoten Line will take center stage.

I am also happy that so many of you have elected to join us on the Technical Tour which takes place on Saturday. This includes a visit to LKAB’s and Kaunis Iron’s shipping facilities in Narvik and Bane NOR’s spectacular Heavy Haul line between Narvik and the Swedish border.

The Official Conference Programme is now [available for download at our website](#), providing detailed information about all the above and the numerous other sessions taking place.

We also strongly recommend that you download our special conference app, which will supply you with all the latest conference information, including any last-minute changes to the itinerary. You can also use the app to build your own agenda and contribute to interactive sessions. Furthermore, the app will help you connect with other delegates with common fields of interest. For more information and download instructions, [please refer to our website](#).

Many of you are probably wondering if the weather will allow you to see the midnight sun during your stay. The current long-term forecast is somewhat foreboding, but it is too early to draw any conclusions. [Follow this link](#) if you would like to keep an eye on the meteorological situation.

Meanwhile, I wish you a pleasant journey to the scenic shores of Arctic Norway. I look forward to seeing you in Narvik, and I extend a very warm welcome. Let the Games begin!

Best regards,
Thor Braekkan

Vice Chairman IHHA
Co-Chairman, Conference Organizing Committee