

# *Cuban Freight Car Joint Venture Agreement*

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Havana, April 28 (RHC) — The UVZ-Logistik subsidiary of Russia's Uralvagonzavod is to establish a transportation logistics joint venture in Cuba, in partnership with Cuban metallurgy and engineering firm GESIME and national operator Unión Ferrocarriles de Cuba, the Railway Gazette reports.

Under an agreement signed at the 13th Russian-Cuban Intergovernmental Commission on Trade in Kazan, the joint venture will modernize and re-equip the Planta Mecánica forging and fabrication factory near Santa Clara in order to build and maintain freight cars for the national railway.

Currently employing around 700 staff, the GESIME factory provides machine tools and fabrication services to Cuba's sugar industry and local steel mills, as well as manufacturing equipment for export.

According to UVZ-Logistik CEO Dmitry Eremeev, the joint venture is due to be operational by the end of this year. The project is being funded through an investment package valued at around \$25m, which will include financing from Russian banks and the Export Insurance Agency of Russia; this should all be in place by 2016.



**Radio Habana Cuba**