Welcome address to the participants, visitors and organizers
of the Russian Week of High Technologies 2018

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the Russian Ministry of Telecom and Mass Communications let me welcome the participants, visitors and organizers of the Russian Week of High Technologies 2018 at Expocentre Fairgrounds.

President of Russia Vladimir Putin emphasized that digital economy was not a stand-alone industry. In fact, it is the basis allowing to create entirely new models of business, trade, logistics, and production. Digital economy changes the format of education, health care, state management, and communication between people, and, as a result, sets a new paradigm to develop the state, economy, and the whole society.

The efforts to support the IT sphere are reflected in the Digital Economy of the Russian Federation program which has been drawn up in cooperation with other departments, development institutes and telecom experts in pursuance of the orders given by the President of Russia. The program assumes that digital data is a key factor of production in all spheres of social and economic activities and its effective use is essential to improve the competitiveness of the country and living standards, and to ensure economic growth and national sovereignty.

The Russian Week of High Technologies presents the results of the program implementation as well as new products and telecom achievements which arouse continuing interest among both professionals and common users.

The Russian Ministry of Telecom and Mass Communications actively supports the Week and regards it as an effective platform for professional networking of IT companies, designers of software, developers of new technologies and telecommunications equipment, and numerous consumers of the products.

The Forum provides a comprehensive picture in the field of software. Today, state and local government customers are offered more than 4,000 software applications in 24 classes. Thanks to incentive schemes, the demand for software programs is growing. Russian software is purchased for state service twice as frequently as in 2015. I expect the Forum participants will showcase new original developments made by Russian software engineers.

The Week is a high-profile convention and exhibition event in the field of high technologies. Key events of the Russian Week of High Technologies 2018 are the

Sviaz exhibition, the Navitech exhibition, the Russian Software: Effective Solutions Forum, the Big Media Communication Forum, and the International Navigation Forum. I would like to point out that the Week is organized in close cooperation with the Russian State Duma, leading industry associations, and major service providers.

It is worth recalling that the story of the Forum goes back to 1975 when the Sviaz exhibition was initiated by the USSR Ministry of Communications. For many years Sviaz has showcased achievements and trends in the development of the global and Russian telecom industry. I am confident that the 30th anniversary edition will feature the latest developments from Russia and other countries.

I would like to wish you every success and effective cooperation!

Nikolay Nikiforov
Minister of Telecom and Mass Communications
of the Russian Federation