

media



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Downer EDI to supply/maintain rollingstock for Alice to Darwin rail link

Downer EDI Limited (Downer EDI) today announced that its Rail division, EDI Rail, has signed a contract with Asia Pacific Transport (APT) to provide a package of rollingstock solutions including the supply of locomotives and wagons and the provision of maintenance services. The value of the contract is approximately \$60 million.

Under the terms of the agreement, EDI Rail will supply four diesel electric 4 FQ class locomotives and 150 articulated container wagons, and provide maintenance services over a ten-year period.

The rollingstock will be used by APT to carry containerised freight on the soon to be completed Darwin to Alice Springs rail line and then on to the national standard gauge rail network.

General Manager of EDI Rail, Mr Danny Broad, said the rollingstock would be built and assembled at EDI Rail's facility at Port Augusta in South Australia, with delivery planned for December 2003.

"The maintenance services will be provided by EDI Rail's existing facilities at Dry Creek and Pt Augusta. A new maintenance facility will be built by APT and operated by EDI Rail at the Berimah Road Terminal in Darwin," Mr Broad said.

Referring specifically to the Port Augusta area, Mr Broad said the project represented a significant boost to the area – securing the long term employment for the EDI Rail staff and also injecting money into the local economy through the use of local suppliers.

Asia Pacific Transport spokesperson, Mr Franco Moretti, said the significance of the EDI Rail contract was that it represented the next chapter in Port Augusta's long and proud history of servicing Australia's rail industry.

"EDI Rail's facility at Port Augusta stands to become a national centre for the continued development of expertise in the supply of total rollingstock solutions to the rail industry."

Mr Moretti said Asia Pacific Transport was very pleased to be involving EDI Rail and indeed the people of Port Augusta in this historic project, which is due to bring terrific benefits not only to the region but, indeed, to the rest of Australia.



“The EDI Rail contract was particularly good news for South Australia. Our commitment has always been to source 75 percent of the value of the project in goods and services from both NT and SA including labour and our projections are that we have exceeded this target with close to 95 per cent of the goods and services sourced locally,” he said.

From 2004, APT’s operating company FreightLink will operate the 2,250-kilometre rail line from Tarcoola to Darwin, which includes the new 1,420-kilometre rail line currently under construction. It will freight goods between Adelaide and Darwin in just 48 hours, and link with regular shipping services from Asia at Darwin's natural deepwater harbour at East Arm Port. It will also operate en-route terminals in Adelaide, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine and the Darwin Port.

EDI Rail is Australia’s leading rollingstock provider with comprehensive manufacture and maintenance capability. Downer EDI is an Australian top-150 company, which provides comprehensive engineering and infrastructure management services to the public and private rail, road, power, telecommunications, mining and resources sectors in Australia, New Zealand and Asia. www.downeredi.com

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