

# Global Mass Transit Weekly

Information & analysis on the global mass transit industry

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## NORTH AMERICA

### **British Columbia seeks bidders for Evergreen Line project**

British Columbia in Canada has called for bidders to design, build and finance its CAD1.4 billion Evergreen Line project. The 11 km rapid transit line will link Coquitlam and Vancouver via Port Moody and Burnaby. The work, scheduled to begin by end-2010, has a completion deadline of 2014. The federal and provincial governments will partly fund the project by contributing about CAD400 million each.

(1 Canadian Dollar [CAD] = 0.9689 USD)

### **NJ Transit approves USD373 million order for Bombardier**

Canada-based Bombardier Transportation has received approval for an existing order worth USD373 million from New Jersey (NJ) Transit. The order is for the supply of 100 double-deck commuter cars worth USD294 million and ten dual-mode locomotives valued at USD79 million. The approval is part of an ongoing fleet modernisation programme. The delivery of the railcars is scheduled in 2011.

Meanwhile, an allocation of USD37.3 million has been made to replace track and sleepers and for bridge inspections. NJ Transit will also invest USD11 million in electric traction and signalling improvements, as well as USD84.9 million for maintenance of the light-rail and bus networks.

### **FTA approves repairs and upgrades on Washington metro**

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has approved the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's proposal to undertake repairs and upgrades urgently. These are required to improve safety on Washington's mass rapid transit system, Metrorail. The approval comes before the award of the first funding of USD150 million to improve safety under the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA).

Projects worth USD220 million have been identified for the upgradation of Metrorail. These are – rehabilitation of tracks for USD44.4 million; rehabilitation of portions of the orange, blue and yellow lines for USD 34.5 million; replacement and upgradation of heavy-duty track maintenance equipment for USD17.3 million; replacement of

critical car components such as wheels, bogies, brake systems and traction motors for USD12.4 million; and overhaul of car components such as parking brakes, bogie controls, coupler control boxes and air compressors for USD20 million.

In addition to the PRIIA funds, the Districts of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia will extend a financial assistance of USD150 million as part of an annual programme that involves the allocation of USD1.5 billion for a period of 10 years.

### **BART approves funding for Oakland Airport Connector**

The Board of Directors of Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART), the rapid transit system serving San Francisco, has approved a funding plan worth USD484 million for the new automated line of the network, linking the Coliseum BART station and the Oakland airport. BART had to look for alternative sources of funding after the federal government revoked the stimulus funding of USD70 million in February 2010 on the grounds of violation of civil-rights laws for not considering the railway project's impact on the low-income and minority communities in Oakland.

The USD70 million of fund comprised state transportation funds worth USD20 million, High-Speed Rail Authority grants of USD5 million, an additional loan of USD27 million from the federal government and another USD10 million from federal reserves. An amount of USD10 million will be saved by decreasing the contingency (used to cover construction cost increases) by 3 per cent.

The funding approval also re-authorises BART to enter into a contract with California-based Flatiron/Parsons joint venture to design and build the 5.15 km automated people mover and authorises BART to enter a contract with Doppelmayr Cable Car, Incorporated to operate and maintain the connector once it is built. Both firms were originally awarded the contract in December 2009.

The line is to be built in a span of three-and-a-half-year years and work on the project is expected to begin in late 2010.

As per BART, once built, the connector will replace the AirBART shuttle bus service that is often delayed by road traffic congestion and various other factors. In contrast, the APM will run on a fixed, elevated guideway above the congestion. The APMs will arrive at the Coliseum BART Station every 4.5 minutes and will transport travelers to the airport in

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8 minutes and 12 seconds with an on-time performance exceeding 99 per cent.

### **TRC Companies to provide security and environmental engineering services to New York MTA**

TRC Companies, Incorporated has received pre-qualification award agreements in 10 General Engineering Consulting (GEC) categories with subsidiaries of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). Through these agreements, TRC qualifies to provide supply safety, security and environmental engineering services as well as construction supervision and inspection services to the MTA Metro-North Railroad and the MTA Long Island Rail Road. Meanwhile, TRC will support the MTA in connection with line structures, buildings, passenger stations, shops and yards, and parking facilities. The potential value for each of these contracts could range from USD400,000 to over USD1 million over the next five years.

### **Bids invited for Portland-Milwaukie Light-Rail Project**

Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon (TriMet) has invited requests for proposal for engineering design services for the final design of the West Segment (Segment A) of the Portland-Milwaukie Light-Rail Project.

The contractor will be required to work with TriMet's Capital Projects and jurisdictional partners (City of Portland, Oregon Department of Transportation and Metro) as well as other agencies as necessary to produce the design for the light-rail, secure the required permissions and draft the construction contracts for the project. The scope of the contract includes assembling the design team; providing management, coordination and direction to the team and subcontractors; and supplying the required services. The cost for the final design of the West Segment is expected to range from USD4.5 million to USD5.5 million. The design should comply with the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and mitigations defined in the Record of Decision. The last date for submission of bids for the project is August 12, 2010.

### **USD500 million funding announced for Illinois mass transit system**

The Governor of Illinois has announced a funding of over USD500 million for critical mass

transit infrastructure improvements throughout the state.

The funding includes over USD442 million for the Regional Transit Authority (RTA), which will provide USD253 million to the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), USD157 million to the Metra suburban railway system and USD32 million to Pace suburban bus service. The remaining amount of USD58 million will be extended to transit systems outside of the Chicago area.

CTA will use the funds to eliminate slow zones, rehabilitate elevated train stations, improve the safety of existing infrastructure and increase accessibility.

Metra will use USD119 million to purchase new electric cars and the remaining USD38 million for reconstruction and improvements at eight stations. Pace will use its funds for bus improvements, new paratransit vehicles and a system-wide radio communication upgrade.

### **Work begins on tunnel project for Rapibus in Gatineau**

Gatineau, located in western Quebec in Canada, has begun work on a 55-metre bus transit way tunnel of the Société de transport de l'Outaouais (STO). The tunnel is part of a USD42 million contract to develop the 4.5 km section of the the Rapibus transitway between the Pont Noir bridge across the Gatineau river and Montée Paiement in the Gatineau sector.

STO's Rapibus is a bus rapid transit system that will include a 15 km two-way lane for the exclusive use of buses in the railway corridor right-of-way from Lorrain to Alexandre-Taché between the downtown areas of the Hull sector and Ottawa.

The project is being taken up at a cost of USD133.5 million. Initially, the project was expected to begin construction in late 2008, but construction work began only in November 2009. The BRT project is slated for completion by end-2011.

## **LATIN AMERICA**

### **SCT plans railroad works worth MXN324 million in Jalisco**

Mexico's communications and transportation ministry, Secretaría de Comunicaciones y Transportes (SCT), plans to implement development

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works on the Irapuato-Manzanillo railway in the state of Jalisco. The project involves building three overpasses at the road crossings of Gobernador Curiel, Juan de la Barrera avenue and Calle Cardenal as well as complementary works in the Tlaquepaque municipality. The proposed development works are expected to cost an estimated MXN324 million. The SCT, the Mexican government, Tlaquepaque municipality and the selected concessionaire for the project will invest MXN81 million each.

Meanwhile, the SCT is also working with the Jalisco government to redirect the current railway line linking Castillo and Bajio. It is carrying out works to reduce the length of the railway line by around 200 km.

(1 Mexican Peso [MXN] = 0.0786 USD)

### **CEF sanctions BRL1.47 for transport projects in Belo Horizonte**

Belo Horizonte, the capital of the Brazilian state of Minas Gerais, will receive funds worth BRL1.47 billion from the state-owned bank, Caixa Economica Federal (CEF), for financing urban transport projects in the city in preparation for World Cup 2014.

A large proportion of the funds will be utilised for setting up a new bus rapid transit (BRT) system along the Don Pedro I and Presidente Antonio Carlos avenues. Implementation of the 27 km BRT corridor, Pedro I in Antonio Carlos avenue is already underway while the second corridor, Pedro II in Catalão avenue, is currently being planned. These two corridors jointly involve the construction of around 38 km of dedicated bus corridors. Besides the development of a BRT system, there are plans to revamp the city's metro system.

(1 Brazilian Real [BRL] = 0.5640 USD)

### **Tender for Bogota metro to be launched in 2011**

The Colombian government is planning to invite international competitive bids for the construction of Line 1 of Bogota's metro system in the second quarter of 2011. The contract is scheduled to be awarded in the same quarter while construction work is slated to begin in the fourth quarter of 2011.

The project is still in the engineering phase, undergoing soil studies and infrastructure analysis. Further, studies to determine the exact route network of the system is likely to begin by September 2010. Meanwhile, the National Council

for Economic and Social Policy (CONPES) has approved a financing plan for the Cundinamarca department in Colombia. Under the plan, the department will receive about COP340 billion annually during 2016-2032 from CONPES.

Of the total funds to be released each year, about COP300 billion will flow into mass transport initiatives in Bogota, including the metro system and improvements to the city's Transmilenio bus rapid transit system.

(1 Colombian Peso [COP] = 0.0005 USD)

### **Bids invited for protection of metro system**

The operator of the Sao Paulo metro, Companhia do Metropolitano de São Paulo has invited international competitive bids for the provision of services to restrict the entry of pigeons into the system for ensuring safety and security of metro operations. The last date for submission of bids is August 10, 2010.

## **ASIA PACIFIC**

### **Rail contracts awarded in Sri Lanka**

Indian Railway Construction (Ircon) International Limited and the China National Machinery Import & Export Corporation have secured contracts for developing segments of the Sri Lankan railway network. Two separate contracts aggregating USD370 million have been awarded to the selected private developers.

China National Machinery Import and Export has been handed the contract for developing the southern Matara-Beliatta railway line at a cost of USD290 million. Meanwhile, Ircon International has won a USD86.5 million signalling and telecommunication contract for the Northern Railway Line system. The USD86.5 million contract also includes the maintenance of these systems as well as the implementation of a new ticketing system.

### **Keisei Electric Railway launches new high-speed railway link**

The Keisei Electric Railway Company in Japan has started a high-speed railway service connecting central Tokyo with Narita International Airport. The new link has been built by the railway company. Also known as the Narita Sky Access train, the

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high-speed service reduces the travel time between central Tokyo and the airport by 15 minutes.

The Narita Sky Access train is capable of attaining speeds of up to 160 km/hr, making it the fastest train service in Japan that is not a Shinkansen or bullet train. The 51.4 km Narita Rapid Railway Access operates a total of 54 services per day on the route.

### **DMRC orders additional 40 additional Movia metro cars from Bombardier; MMRDA to raise foreign loans for Mumbai metro project**

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has ordered 40 additional Movia metro cars worth EUR43 million from Bombardier under an existing clause in the EUR83 million contract for 74 Movias placed by the DMRC in June 2010. The delivery of this batch of railcars will follow the previous order and is slated for completion in 2011. Around 190 Movia cars are already operating on the Delhi metro network and the latest order will take the fleet to 538 cars.

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) in Maharashtra, India is planning to approach multilateral funding agencies to raise loans for the proposed seven lines of the Mumbai metro. According to reports, the World Bank and the Japanese Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) have shown interest in participating in the project.

MMRDA is hoping to raise a loan of about USD10 billion from each of the banks, repayable over a span of 30 years. It has already submitted a proposal to the Government of India (GoI) for the funding of the system's third metro line between Colaba and Bandra. As per the proposal, the viability gap funding (VGF) for the line could go up to 70 per cent of the total cost. However, the GoI has given in-principle approval to a viability gap funding of up to 40 per cent.

### **L&T secures Hyderabad metro rail contract**

Larsen and Toubro (L&T) has secured an INR122 billion contract to build and operate the Hyderabad metro system in Andhra Pradesh on a build-operate-transfer basis for a period of 35 years.

As per the terms of the contract, from the 21<sup>st</sup> year of operation of the system, L&T will have to share 0.5 per cent of the revenue collected from operations with Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited

(HMRL). The percentage of HMRL's revenue share will increase by 0.5 per cent each year up to a maximum of 10 per cent. After 35 years, the Metro Rail project developer would have to hand over the project to the state government.

The other consortia to bid for the project were – Lanco Group-OHL, Reliance Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group, Essar-Leighton International, Gayatri Constructions-VNR, Transstroy-OJSC Russian Railways, China Railway 18th Bureau (Group) Company-Bharat Earth Movers Limited and Soma-Strabag. Of the six consortia that had submitted bids for the project, L&T emerged as the lowest bidder. According to officials of the Andhra Pradesh government, L&T had offered the lowest viability-gap funding (VGF) of INR14.58 billion (about 12 per cent of the project cost) as against the second lowest VGF of INR22.00 billion (roughly 25 per cent of the project cost).

The project that was officially approved by the Ministry of Urban Development in June 2010 is expected to achieve financial closure by end-2010. The Government of India has agreed to contribute up to INR23.6 billion (roughly 20 per cent of the cost) for the project while the state government will fund another 20 per cent of the cost.

The remaining project cost will be financed by L&T via funds raised through debt and equity. The remaining amount is to be funded by the Government of India through VGF. The construction of the metro system is expected to be completed by 2014.

The metro rail system will have a total track length of 71.16 km covering 66 stations. The network will comprise three corridors, namely, Miyapur-LB Nagar (29.87 km), Jubilee Bus Station-Falaknuma (14.78 km) and Nagole-Shilparamam (26.51 km).

(1 Indian Rupee [INR] = 0.0212 USD)

### **NSW government to expand Sydney's light rail network**

The New South Wales (NSW) government in Australia is planning to extend Sydney's Metro Light Rail network by another 10 km to the Inner West suburb in the city.

The first phase of the project involves a 5.6 km extension of the system towards Inner West. It will

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run from the current light-rail station at Lilyfield to Dulwich Hill and is expected to become operational by early 2012.

This phase also includes the creation of a walking and cycling path in the corridor, a number of greenbelts and other track upgrade works.

The NSW government has already prepared a draft study for the first phase of the extension. An ecological study, surveying and geotechnical aspects of the project have also been completed in preparation for track upgradation works that are scheduled to begin in August 2010.

The light-rail expansion project with an estimated outlay of AUD500 million, is a part of the NSW government's Metropolitan Transport Plan.

(1 Australian Dollar [AUD] = 0.8934 USD)

### **KSRTC to deploy ITS in state transport services; Chandigarh gets AC buses**

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) is implementing the Intelligent Transport System (ITS) on urban transport services in Mysore.

These new services based on GPS enabled navigation systems and supported by information and Communication Technologies provides for a dynamic passenger information system available on public displays at bus stops, bus terminals and also on the internet.

The ITS will allow the passengers to know in advance the exact time of the arrival of bus would arrive at the bus stand, the availability of seats, and the time it would take to reach the destination. The project is funded by The World Bank and the consultants to the project are eGestalt Technologies.

Meanwhile, the Chandigarh Transport Undertaking has introduced five new low-floor air-conditioned (AC) buses on various routes of the city bus service in Chandigarh.

The buses have a seating capacity of 32 passengers and are disabled friendly. They are also equipped with electronic display boards providing route information.

The new AC buses have been procured under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) scheme of the Government of India. As per the Chandigarh Transport Undertaking, a total of 40 more AC buses are planned to be added to the bus fleet under the JNNURM scheme.

### **Sydney Metrobus to start eight new services**

Metrobus, the bus rapid transit (BRT) system serving Sydney and surrounding areas, is adding new services. The BRT network is expanding, particularly in Western Sydney, with the number of routes increasing to thirteen from the present five. The first of the eight new services, M52 has already been announced and is scheduled to begin in August 2010. The remaining services are planned to be introduced over the next 12 months, until July 2011.

The new routes are listed below.

- M41 running between Hurstville and Macquarie via Burwood
- M52 running between Parramatta and Sydney CBD via West Ryde
- M54 running between Parramatta and Macquarie via Epping
- M60 running between Parramatta and Hornsby via Baulkham Hills
- M61 running between Castle Hill and Sydney CBD via Baulkham Hills
- M90 running between Liverpool and Burwood via Bankstown
- M91 running between Hurstville and Parramatta via Bankstown
- M92 running between Sutherland and Parramatta via Bankstown

Post-expansion the BRT will cater to the following new destinations in the Sydney metropolitan area.

- Parramatta, Bankstown and Liverpool in the west;
- Hornsby towards north;
- Castle Hill and Baulkham Hills in the north west
- Hurstville and Sutherland Shire in the South;

Currently, there are four operational Metrobus routes. These cater to the areas of Leichhardt, Maroubra Junction, Gore Hill, Mascot, Mosman, Sydenham, Chatswood and Bondi Junction.

The expansion of the BRT will be supported by bus priority measures including the development of bus lanes and the Public Transport Information Priority system giving special passage right to a bus at traffic signals if it is running behind schedule.

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Moreover the new buses will be environment-friendly emitting lesser greenhouse gases than conventional vehicles.

### **Bus operators in Ho Chi Minh City seek loans to procure CNG buses**

Alliance of Bus Co-operatives, one of the two operators of CNG buses in Ho Chi Minh City, has sought a loan subsidy from the Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee to procure new CNG buses, which cost USD106,000 each, almost double that of a diesel bus.

The People's Committee has already approved a subsidy to the Sai Gon Passenger Transport Company, another bus operator, for buying 21 new CNG buses. However, the subsidy is waiting for the Vietnam government's approval.

Meanwhile, the city's two public transport buses fuelled by compressed natural gas (CNG) that have been undergoing trial runs since May 2010, will continue to operate as Petrovietnam Southern Gas JSC (PV Gas South), the key gas supplier to the city's buses has reversed its decision to stop fuel supply to bus operators.

Earlier, PV Gas South had announced that it will withdraw CNG supply from mid-July 2010 if at least 20 CNG buses are not operated.

### **Bids invited for the development of BRT corridor**

The Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation in Andhra Pradesh, India has invited international competitive bids for the investigation, survey, design and execution of bus rapid transit (BRT) system corridor boundaries commencing from Ch: 14 km at Admvaram Junction to Ch: 16 km at Gosala via Simhachaiam.

The contract is to be awarded under the engineering-procurement-construction (Design and Build) system with a two-year defect liability period.

The last date for submission of bids for the project is August 17, 2010.

### **SBS Transit launches hybrid fuel bus in Singapore**

SBS Transit Limited, an operator of bus services in Singapore has launched a new hybrid fuel bus called GreenLite.

The fuel cell bus has been developed through collaboration between Nanyang Technological

University (NTU), Beijing's Tsinghua University, China's Higer Bus Company and SBS Transit.

The bus, powered by two sources of energy, hydrogen and lithium-ion batteries, can achieve up to 30 per cent reduction in fuel consumption and has zero carbon emissions.

It employs a parallel hybrid system, developed by Eaton Corporation of the US, in which a motor is used to convert electrical energy into mechanical energy and vice-versa.

Two more hybrid fuel buses are slated to start service shortly. The buses will undergo trial runs for a year starting August 2010.

Meanwhile, in order to encourage private players to drive innovations in the land transport sector, the Land Transport Authority has provided partial financial support for the development of the fuel cell bus through the Land Transport Innovation Fund.

## **EUROPE**

### **Joint venture of Balfour Beatty, Cobra and SEMI secure high-speed rail contract in Spain**

A joint venture of Balfour Beatty Ibercia, Cobra and SEMI has secured a EUR566 million contract for the installation of electrical equipment on the 167 km high-speed line between Albacete and Alacant.

The contract has been awarded by Spanish infrastructure administrator Administrador de Infraestructuras Ferroviarias (ADIF).

Another maintenance contract worth EUR169 million for the Torrejon de Velasco-Gabaldon section of the Madrid-Valencia route has been awarded to Acciona Infraestructuras, Coalvi and Iberovias.

### **PPP contract for LGV Atlantique awarded to Vinci-led consortium**

The LISEA consortium led by France-based construction company Vinci has secured a EUR7.8 billion public-private partnership (PPP) concession contract from French infrastructure manager Reseau Ferre de France (RFF) for the construction and maintenance of the LGV Atlantique high-speed railway link in southern France.

The 340 km line running from Tours to Bordeaux will reduce journey time on the route by

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an hour. Work on the project is scheduled to begin by end-2011 and the line is expected to be operational by end-2016.

Two other consortia that were shortlisted for a second round of bidding but did not secure the contract were led by Bouygues and Eiffage. LISEA, which also includes Caisse des Depots and AXA, was selected as the preferred bidder in March 2010 itself.

The LGV Atlantique is one of the major projects under the French government's Grenelle De l'Environment programme, which envisages the construction of over 2,000 km rail network including high-speed.

Meanwhile, RFF has issued the final tender documents for the PPP contract for implementing the 214 km LGV Bretagne-Pays de la Loire Line between Le Mans and Rennes.

The shortlisted consortia are led by Vinci, Bouygues and Eiffage. The consortia are required to submit their best and final offers by mid-October 2010 after which RFF will select the preferred bidder by end-2010.

(1 EUR = 1.2904 USD)

### **Transport Scotland plans rail electrification; imposes fine on First ScotRail under the Squire programme**

Transport Scotland, the national transport agency of Scotland, is planning to undertake a GBP1 billion rail electrification programme to upgrade the routes between Glasgow and Edinburgh and its branch lines to Stirling and Alloa.

Under the programme, electric power lines will be installed on more than 321 km of the rail network in the central belt to reduce the journey time between Glasgow and Edinburgh to 35 minutes. The electrification works are scheduled to be completed in 2016.

The Scottish government has imposed a fine of over GBP785,630 on Scotland-based railway franchise operator First ScotRail for failing to meet pre-defined performance targets during 2009-10 (up to June 2010). The amount is 16 per cent lower than the fine of GBP938,959 imposed by the government in 2008-09 (up to June 2009) for the same reasons.

According to the contractual agreement between First ScotRail and Transport Scotland, the former received bonuses for above benchmark performance

and penalties for below standard performance under the Service Quality Incentive Regime (Squire) implemented through an annual assessment of 344 stations.

The decline in penalties imposed has been attributed to improved performance in areas such as train cleanliness, ticket collection at key stations and customer satisfaction.

In fact, ScotRail has received an award for UK rail operator of the year for the second time in a row at the National Transport Times Awards in the UK. Also winning at the awards, under the category of most innovative transport project, was the Bwcabus local bus services operated in Carmarthenshire.

(1 British Pound [GBP] = 1.5475 USD)

### **Siemens secures order for suburban trains in Russia while Russian government plans investment in high-speed rail**

Germany-based railway equipment manufacturer Siemens has secured a second contract worth EUR2.2 billion from Russia's national railway operator Russian Railways (RZD). The scope of the contract involves the supply of 240 new suburban trains to major cities of Russia over the next decade running up to 2020. An agreement to this effect has been signed.

The overall framework agreement, aimed at localising the production of Siemens' Desiro Rus electric trains in Russia, covers the supply of 1,200 trains in cooperation with RZD subsidiary Aeroexpress.

The supply contract will be signed in 2011. Previously, in May 2010, Siemens was awarded a EUR1.1 billion contract in joint venture with the OJSC Sinara Transport Machines for the supply of 221 trains to RZD.

RZD is also developing modern types of rolling stock to replace 30 per cent of the diesel fuel used in locomotives with natural gas as part of its energy saving and emission reduction initiatives.

The organisation has managed to reduce harmful emissions from its railway operations by over 40 per cent since 2004. Moreover, the East Siberian Railways, which is part of the RZD, has announced plans to invest USD3.9 million in implementing resource-saving technologies

Meanwhile, the Russian government is planning to invest RUB1 trillion in developing a 660 km long



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high-speed rail network linking Moscow to St. Petersburg.

The proposed network will be used to transport up to 14 million passengers per year with the deployment of 42 bullet trains that can achieve a maximum speed of 400 km/hr.

Bidding for the project, which will reduce the travel time between the two cities to 2:5 hours, is slated to be held in 2011.

(1 EUR = 1.2904 USD)

(1 Russian Ruble [RUB] = 0.0331 USD)

### **Bombardier and Vossloh Kiepe jointly secure contract to supply trams in Kraków**

A joint venture of Canada-based rolling stock manufacturer Bombardier and Germany-based technology provider Vossloh Kiepe has secured a EUR58.7 million contract to supply 24 Bombardier Flexity Classic trams to Kraków in Poland. The contract has been awarded by transport operator Miejskie Przedsiębiorstwo Komunikacyjne (MPK) SA.

The order is being funded under a loan by the European Union for implementing the Kraków Urban Transport (Fast Tram) Project, which involves the construction of an express light-rail line between Rondo Grzegórzeckie to Lipska.

Of the total contract value, Bombardier's share in the contract is valued at EUR40 million and involves assembly of the trams at Bautzen in Germany.

Vossloh Kiepe will be responsible for the provision of electrical equipment for the trams under its share of the contract worth EUR18.7 million. Each tram will be 32 metres long with a capacity to accommodate 229 passengers. The first tram is scheduled for delivery in March 2012. MPK already owns a fleet of 50 Flexity trams.

(1 EUR = 1.2904 USD)

### **Grand Dijon and Brest trams on track, with Ineo securing PPP contract to maintain the Grand Dijon tram**

France-based electrical equipment and technology supplier Ineo, a subsidiary of GDFSuez has signed a 26-year public-private partnership (PPP) agreement worth EUR176 million with the Grand Dijon urban authority.

The contract covers the design, supply, maintenance and financing of the electrical and control equipment for the city's upcoming tram network.

Under the deal, Ineo will invest EUR52 million into the city's tram network in association with the PPP development fund Fonds d'Investissement et de Développement des Partenariats Public-Privé (FIDEPPP).

The contract also includes an environmental initiative, under which over 6,200 photovoltaic cells will be installed by Ineo on the roof of the tram network's depot for supplying around 1.3 GWh of electricity to the system.

The Dijon tram network is being built as a two-line system spanning 20 km and 375 stops. Line A will be 11.5 km long covering 21 stations and Line B will be 8.5 km long covering 16 stops.

The project, requiring an investment of EUR400 million, is being financed by the European Investment Bank (contributing EUR188 million), Caisse des Depots (EUR100 million), and contributions from the national and regional governments (totaling EUR112 million).

Meanwhile, the final phase of track construction on the first line of the upcoming Brest tram network has commenced. The line is expected to be commissioned in June 2012.

A second line is also under consideration. The entire project requires an investment of EUR383 million to be financed by the regional government contributions and a loan component.

The cities of Grand Dijon and Brest grouped their orders for trams for their respective networks, awarding a combined contract for 52 trams to Alstom, which has brought down the bill by over 20 per cent.

(1 EUR = 1.2904 USD)

### **New BRT in Norwich and additional buses for Nottingham and South Yorkshire in the UK; Bus depot to come up in Scotland**

The Norwich bus rapid transit (BRT) scheme in the UK has moved forward with the Dareham road being earmarked as the first BRT corridor for the city.

An investment of GBP1.5 million is expected for undertaking the necessary changes on the corridor

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to allow greater speeds, 24-hour bus lanes and junction improvements.

Meanwhile, additional buses will be deployed by Nottingham City Transport in the UK to allow for route changes in the city, while bus operator First South Yorkshire in the UK has announced plans to add 22, double-decker and 12 single-decker buses worth GBP3.5 million to its existing fleet of 106 buses to upgrade services. In another development, state-owned public transport operator Vlaamse Vervoersmaatschappij De Lijn in Belgium has decided to invest EUR20.9 million in the construction of a new bus depot in Bruges.

Work on the new depot is scheduled to begin in August 2010. The depot design will incorporate the use of sustainable energy up to 25 per cent and accommodate 170 buses.

(1 EUR = 1.2904 USD)

(1 British Pound [GBP] = 1.5475 USD)

### **Bids invited for supply of buses**

Germany based bus operator, Rudolf Rombs, Omnibusvermietung has invited international competitive bids for the supply of two low-floor buses, which will be deployed in Weißenburg city for public transport. The last date for submission of bids is August 13, 2010.

## **MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA**

### **China South Locomotive and Rolling Stock receives contract from Saudi Railway Organisation**

China-based railway manufacturing company, China South Locomotive and Rolling Stock Corporation Limited, has received a contract from the Saudi Railways Organisation, the operator of railways in Saudi Arabia, to supply 10 locomotives.

This is the first time that a Chinese company has received orders to supply locomotives to Saudi Arabia. While two locomotives are scheduled for delivery in eight months of receiving the letter of credit, the remaining eight units are to be delivered within 13 months following it.

### **RfPs invited for conducting a planning study for commuter rail**

Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa has invited requests for proposal to conduct a planning study

on the proposed Knoppiesfontein-Van Ryn commuter-rail corridor. The proposed study will cover route determination, station location, station environs investigation and an economic feasibility study. The last date for submission of bids is August 17, 2010.

### **Alstom receives USD74 million tram order from Tunisia**

Tunisia's light-rail operator, Transtu, has awarded a contract for the supply of rolling stock for Tunis Tramway network to France-based railway equipment manufacturer Alstom.

The contract, valued at USD74 million, involves the supply of 16 Citadis trams and the maintenance of the entire fleet of 55 trams for five years. The award of the contract follows the signing of a co-operation framework agreement between the transport ministers of Tunisia and France on April 23, 2009.

The existing tram network in Tunisia consists of five lines covering 32 km. The 39 trams currently operated on Line 1 and Line 2 of the network have also been provided by Alstom between 2007 and 2009. These trams transport over 460,000 passengers per day.

Meanwhile, Line 1 and Line 2 of the system are being extended and the additional units being ordered will be required on these lines.

### **Ghana launches e-zwich card for transit services**

Ghana Interbank Payment and Settlement Systems (GIPSS) has launched a project to introduce Point of Sale (POS) devices at the Metro Mass Transit (MMT) terminals in order to provide commuters with biometric smart cards. Commuters will now be able to use the e-zwich smartcard, which is a new and secure way of paying for goods and services throughout the country based on biometric (finger print) identification.

The e-zwich card will allow smartcard holders and merchants to load and spend funds as well as settle various transactions from August 2010 onwards.

MMT terminals provide mass transit services in major parts of the country. The e-zwich Metro Mass Transit project is planned to be launched on a pilot basis on two of the busiest routes in the country, namely, Accra-Tema and Accra-Ashiaman in the Greater Accra region. ♦