

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RSD CLINCHES CONTRACT FOR 64 BOGIES FOR OREX ORE LINE

DCD-DORBYL's Rolling Stock Division (RSD) has been awarded a contract to supply 64 three-axle bogies for the new Class 15 E locomotives destined for the Orex ore line.

"RSD has a well-established reputation in this field, having supplied virtually all the electric locomotive bogies for South Africa's national railway, including coaching stock and self-steering freight wagon bogies," Norman Taylor, RSD business manager, says.

"A company does not achieve sustainable success with a product of this nature unless it has a strong track record, service success, technical expertise and support of the licensors and local foundries, which RSD prides itself on," Taylor comments.

Delivery of the bogies is set to begin in the second quarter of 2008, with the final bogies to be delivered by mid-2009. "The technical details are being finalised between the various parties. The bogies will be incorporated into the mechanical design of the locomotives at The UCW Partnership's facility in Nigel," Taylor explains.

The bogies have been designed specifically for the heavy-haul Co-Co locomotives. They incorporate features and service-proven principles from past experience. The design incorporates the CSC/GSI traction link system to ensure minimal load transfer between axles. It also optimises the adhesion-demand characteristics.

The bogie design includes GG journal bearings incorporated into a single-link axle-box design to ensure long life and minimal maintenance. Another feature is the pendulum-type traction motor nose suspension, which minimises lateral constraint for better curving characteristics.

The short wheelbase, hydraulic dampers and solid rolled steel wheels all contribute to a reliable bogie configuration with optimum performance and low life-cycle costs. Dynamic performance simulation, finite element analysis, three-dimensional CAD technology and standardisation were applied in the design process to ensure optimum results.

Orex is a specialist business unit of Spoornet, dealing with the transportation of iron ore over the 861 km railway line from Sishen to Saldanha Bay.

Following the high demand for exports of iron ore, improvements to the line have been implemented since 1988.

The investment in new iron ore locomotives forms part of Spoornet's strategy to increase annual capacity to 41-million tons by October 2008, with 35-million tons allocated to Kumba Resources and six-million tons to Assmang.

The 32 new Class 15 E electric locomotives will be the most powerful locomotives in Spoornet's fleet. This investment follows a R3.5-billion deal for 110 locomotives, announced in February 2007, for the coal line to Richards Bay. Delivery is scheduled to commence in 2008.

The iron ore locomotives will be supplied by Venus Railway Solution. The main sub-contractor is The UCW Partnership. The new iron ore locomotives will supplement the existing 31 Class 9 Es.

More About DCD-DORBYL Rolling Stock Division (RSD)

RSD is established as a leading supplier of locomotives, railway wagons and related goods. The company designs, manufactures, refurbishes and services a complete range of rolling stock including locomotives, wagons and bogies. A member of the DCD-DORBYL group, the company is ISO 9001 and OHSAS 18001 accredited.

CAPTION FOR 15 E BOGIES 01: The new Class 15 E locomotives will be manufactured in RSD's ISO 9001 and OHSAS 18001 manufacturing facility in Boksburg.

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