

# Weekly Rail Newsletter

Information & analysis on the global mass transit industry

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## NORTH AMERICA

### **Alstom secures O&M contract for Maryland Camden and Brunswick lines, US**

Alstom has secured an operations and maintenance (O&M) contract from the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA).

The contract is valued at USD401 million, with a base term period of five years. The contract also includes an option for two potential extensions in 2028 and 2033, making the total contract worth USD1.4 billion.

The contract follows the 2012 contract under which Alstom provided operation and maintenance (O&M) of the Maryland Area Rail Commuter (MARC) Camden and Brunswick lines.

Under the contract, Alstom will continue to be responsible for train operations, customer service, crewing, maintenance of the locomotives and railcar fleet, as well as station and facilities management. Alstom will also pilot a fuel-saving project.

The Camden Line spans 63 km and the Brunswick Line spans 119 km. MARC's fleet consists of 42 diesel locomotives, 60 MARC II passenger cars, and 54 Alstom BiLevel coaches (MultiLevel II MARC IV coaches).

### **MDOT MTA to expand commuter rail services to Delaware and Virginia, US**

The Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA) has signed framework agreements with Delaware Transit Corporation and the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority for the potential expansion of Maryland Area Regional Commuter Rail (MARC) train service to Newark, Delaware and to Alexandria, Virginia.

The agreements lay out further actions to advance discussions and assess the prospects of potential pilot services.

MTA and Delaware Transit Corporation will engage with regional stakeholders and agencies to help determine the operational and infrastructural requirements for extending MARC services to Newark.

Additionally, MTA will work with the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority, Virginia Railway Express,

Amtrak, and CSX Transportation to extend MARC services to Alexandria.

Expansion of MARC services is included in the MARC Cornerstone Plan and the Maryland State Rail Plan.

## LATIN AMERICA

### **Ferrovías and Metrovías to continue operating commuter rail lines in Buenos Aires, Argentina**

The Ministry of Transport of Argentina has extended the operating concessions for the standard-gauge Urquiza and the metre-gauge Belgrano North commuter rail lines.

The lines operate from Federico Lacroze and Retiro stations in Buenos Aires respectively. Ferrovías will operate the Belgrano North line and Metrovías will operate the Urquiza line for 18 months.

The contract will be terminated once the government appoints a new operator.

In 2020, the companies had received a similar extension of 18 months.

Additionally, the Belgrano North line will be electrified and new rolling stock will be deployed in partnership with China Railway International Group under agreements signed in January 2022. CRRC Qingdao Sifang will supply new rolling stock for the Urquiza line.

## ASIA PACIFIC

### **Cross-border passenger service commences on the China-Laos Railway**

Passenger services have commenced on the 1,035-km-long China-Laos Railway, after a delay due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The domestic services within the Chinese section and Lao section commenced separately in December 2021, with the rail line carrying nearly 14 million passengers within the two countries till April 2023.

Fuxing and Lancang bullet trains will be deployed to provide cross-border services. Each train can accommodate up to 720 passengers. Tickets will

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be available through the Laos-China Railway Company (LCRC) ticketing mobile application (app).

Passengers will also be able to manage their journeys on the app. During the 10-hour journey between Kunming and Vientiane, there will be eight stops out of which five will be in Laos.

### **Tunnelling works commence on Yinchuan-Bayanhote Railway Line connecting China and Mongolia**

Tunnelling works have commenced on the geologically complex section of the Yinchuan-Bayanhote Railway Line, which will connect Ningxia Hui in China with the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region (IMAR).

The line will span 115 km, covering 75 km in Inner Mongolia and 40 km in Ningxia Hui. The line is being developed at an investment of CNH6.9 billion and is expected to be completed by 2026.

Electric trains having an operational speed of 200 km/hr will be deployed on the line.

Preliminary work and construction design was undertaken by China National Railway. The main construction works are being carried out by China Railway Lantie Group.

The 8.8-km-long single-track tunnel will pass through the Helan Mountains, which are both environmentally sensitive and historically significant, with the route also passing the Great Wall of China.

(1 CNH [Chinese Yuan Renminbi] = USD0.01)

### **NRT to continue construction works on eight rail lines in China**

Ningbo Rail Transit (NRT) has announced plans to complete the construction of Lines 6, 7, and 8; Xiangshan Line and Cixi Line of the City Railway; the second phase of Line 3; and the extension of Lines 1 and 4 by the end of 2023.

The second-phase project of Line 3 will span 9.05 km from Xinzhuang Road Station to Luotuo Qiao Station, covering five stations.

Construction is expected to be completed by August 2023.

The eastward extension project of Line 4 commenced construction in February 2021. The extension will span 2.5 km.

The first-phase project of Line 6 will span 39.6 km from Ningbo West Hub Station in the west to Beilun Xiaogang.

The line will pass through Gulin, Jishi Port, Gaoqiao, Sanjiangkou, the High-tech Zone, and Beilun Xiaogang.

The Line 7 project is a north-south urban underground line, with 25 stations. It spans about 39.4 km from the Dongqian Lake area in the south, and passes through Eastern New City, the Old Bund, Wantou, Zhuangqiao, and Zhenhai New City, and terminates Yufan Group.

The first phase of Line 8 is the southeast-northwest urban line, which will span 23.1 km and cover 19 stations.

The line will pass through Southern Higher Education Park, Yinzhou Southern Business District, Jiangbei District, and Haishu Central District, and will terminate to the south of Yinzhou.

The Ningbo-Xiangshan urban (suburban) railway line will span 61.45 km, covering 10 stations.

The line commenced construction on January 14, 2022. It is expected to commence operations in 2027.

The railway from Ningbo to Cixi City (suburbs) will span 64 km, from Kongpu Station in Jiangbei to Cixi High-speed Railway Station, covering 13 stations. It will pass through Kongpu Station on Line 2, Jiangbei City, Zhenhai City, Jiulonghu Town, Longshan, Zhangqi, Guanhaiwei, and Cixi City, and it will end at the terminal station of Cixi High-speed Railway Station.

### **Knorr-Bremse to supply braking systems for Dawonsys EMUs, South Korea**

Dawonsys has awarded a contract to Knorr Bremse to supply electro-pneumatic braking systems for 208 electric multiple-units (EMUs) on long-distance rail services in South Korea.

The EMUs will be deployed by the end of Q1-2024.

The four-car EMUs will have 264 seats and six-car EMUs will have 392 seats.

The EMUs are designed to run at a maximum operational speed of 150 km/hr.

In 2020 Dawonsys awarded Knorr-Bremse a subcontract to supply the compressed air supply,

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electro pneumatic braking and wheel slide protection systems for the initial 150 EMUs.

At the end of 2022, Dawonsys exercised a 'lower double-digit million-euro' option for Knorr-Bremse to equip the additional 208 cars.

### **Wabtec to deploy braking technology for Pune Metro; DMRC emerges as lowest bidder for Mumbai Metro Line 3; Trials commence on Kolkata Metro under water tunnel, India**

Wabtec has secured a contract from Alstom Transport India to deploy braking technology on 22 three-car trains for Pune Metro Line 3.

The technology offers critical safety features and reduced maintenance intervals.

The braking system has a substantial 'Make in India' component and is primarily designed by domestic engineering teams.

Wabtec has already deployed similar braking solutions for the Chennai, Kochi, Lucknow, and Mumbai metro projects in India under the SMART Metro Platform.

Additionally, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has emerged as the lowest bidder for operating and maintaining Mumbai Metro Line 3.

Line 3 will span 33.5 km from Aarey to Cuffe Parade, covering 27 stations.

The scope of work for this contract will include metro rail operation and safety management.

Line 3 is currently under construction and is expected to be operational in parts from the end of 2023 onwards.

Further, trials have commenced on the Kolkata Metro underwater tunnel (located at a depth of up to 33 metres ) route from Mahakaran to Howrah. Passenger service is expected to commence by the end of 2023.

### **LRMC to deploy Gen-4 LRVs on LRT Cavite Extension; Cost of development increases by over PHP2 billion, Philippines**

Light Rail Manila Corporation (LRMC) has announced plans to deploy a fleet of 10 Generation-4 (Gen-4) light rail vehicles (LRVs) on Light Rail Transit Line 1 (LRT-1) Cavite Extension in the Philippines during 2023.

Passenger service is expected to commence on the line in January 2024. Out of the 30 LRVs ordered, 20 have been delivered and are undergoing trials in Manila.

Each LRV is required to complete 1,000 km during the trials before being accepted by the grantors and the eventual handover to LRMC for commercial use.

The LRVs can accommodate over 1,300 passengers per trip and have a maximum design operational speed of 70 km/hr.

In addition to being used on the LRT-1 Cavite Extension, the vehicles will also be deployed on existing rail lines in Manila.

Further, the cost of developing LRT Cavite Extension has increased by more than PHP2 billion from the original project cost of P64 billion.

The additional expenditure will be funded either by the government or through an extension of the 32-year concession agreement.

The extension will span 11.8 km covering eight stations. The extension project is 82.7 per cent complete in terms of civil works and rail system works.

Passenger operations are expected to commence by the fourth quarter of 2024.

(1 PHP [Phillipine Peso] = USD0.017)

### **Manila LRT-1 Cavite extension to be completed by 2028, Philippines**

The Manila Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) has announced that all the four stages of the Light Rail Transit (LRT)-1 Cavite extension, which spans 11.7 km, are expected to be completed by 2028.

The first stage of the LRT-1 Cavite extension is worth USD1.17 billion.

It is scheduled to be operational by September 2024.

This phase will cover eight new stations apart from the Redemptorist, Manila International Airport, Asiaworld, Ninoy Aquino, and Dr Santos stations.

The Light Rail Manila Corporation (LRMC) will continue the construction of the final three stations of the project and has commenced construction work on the final section.

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Land acquisition for the first five stations in the final section is yet to be completed.

### **Philippines DoTr to develop LRT-2 West Extension on PPP basis**

The Department of Transportation (DoTr) of the Philippines has announced plans to implement the Light Rail Transit Line 2 (LRT-2) West Extension project on a public-private partnership (PPP) basis due to the limited government budget.

The DoTr has signed a transaction advisory service agreement with the Asian Development Bank to select the private partner.

This is in line with the announced plans to privatise the operations and maintenance (O&M) of LRT-2 along with Metro Rail Transit Line 3 (MRT-3).

The West Extension will span 3 km and cover three stations. It will connect with the LRT-2 line at Recto station.

The project also includes the acquisition of 20 light rail vehicles (LRVs). It is expected to be developed at an investment of PHP10.12 billion.

Further, the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) is expected to receive the multiyear financing commitment from the government to proceed with the project bidding.

(1 PHP [Philippine Peso] = USD0.018)

### **LTA awards contracts for CRL project, Singapore**

The Land Transport Authority (LTA) has awarded two contracts, with a combined value of SGD650 million, for works on the Cross Island Line (CRL) mass rapid transit project in Singapore.

The first contract, worth SGD450 million was awarded to a consortium comprising Siemens Mobility and Siemens Rail Automation S.A.U to deploy the signalling system and platform screen doors (PSD) system.

The scope of work includes the design, manufacture, installation, and testing of a communication-based train control (CBTC) signalling system to allow trains to run at higher service frequency. The second contract, worth SGD200 million, was secured by ST Engineering Urban Solutions (ST Engineering) to install the integrated supervisory control system (ISCS) and communications system for the CRL.

The communication system will support various sub-systems, including video surveillance, public address, and travel information system.

The 50-km-long CRL is expected to commence operations in 2030.

It will be Singapore's longest complete underground line with an expected daily ridership of 600,000 passengers.

(1 SGD [Singapore Dollar] = USD0.75)

## **EUROPE**

### **ML awards Lisbon Circular Line Lot 4 contract, Portugal**

A consortium comprising Zagope, Comsa, ACE, and Agrupamento Complementar de Empresas has secured a EUR69.9 million contract from Metropolitano de Lisboa (ML) for Lot 4 of the Lisbon Metro Circular Line project.

The project covers construction of a 2-km metro line as well as two stations from the Rato station on the Green Line to the Cais do Sodré station on the Yellow Line to create the Circular Line.

The scope of the contract covers finishing works, which include masonry; coatings; metalwork; furniture; signage; hydraulic; electrical; telecommunications and technical installations; data and security networks.

It also includes works on railway tracks and the installation of the ticketing system.

The Circular Line is expected to be operational in 2024.

The total cost of the project is EUR240.2 million, which is co-financed using EUR137.2 million from the Environmental Fund and EUR103 million from the Cohesion Fund through the Operational Programme for Sustainability and Efficient Use of Resources (PO SEUR).

(1 EUR [Euro] = USD1.10)

### **Metro do Porto to launch tender for Ruby Line by May 2023, Portugal**

The president of Metro do Porto has announced plans to launch the tender for the construction of the Ruby/Gaia Line of Porto Metro by May 2023.

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The company is currently finalising the procedures for the tender.

The Rubi/Gaia Line will run between Santo Ovídio and Casa da Música.

The project will include the construction of a bridge, two viaducts, a 3-km tunnel, elevated stations, and underground stations.

The total cost of the project is EUR299 million.  
(1 EUR [Euro] = USD1.10)

### **Gepard Express to operate Brno–Vienna International Airport rail service, Czech Republic and Austria**

Gepard Express has secured a contract from the Brno City Council to operate a rail line between Brno and Vienna International Airport.

The operator's offer will reduce the journey time by 35 minutes compared to the other offers presented.

Gepard Express will operate one direct train service daily, which will be partially subsidised by the City of Brno.

There are plans to integrate the train ticket with the public transport services in Brno.

The contract period will begin on June 11, 2023.

## **MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA**

### **Passenger service commences on RFR Line E, Tunisia**

Passenger service has commenced on the Rapid Rail Network (RFR) network Line E. The RFR network comprises five lines spanning over 86 km.

Line E connects Tunis (Barcelona Square) to the Ennajah, Ettayaran–Ezzouhour 1, Ezzouhour 2, El Hrairia, and Bougatfa–SidiHassine districts. Line D connects Tunis to the regions of Sayda El Manoubia, Mellassine, Erraoudha, Bardo, El Bortal, Manouba, Cité des Orangers, and Gobaa.

The RFR network will carry 600,000 passengers daily. Construction works of Line E were undertaken by Société Générale d'Entreprise de Matériel et de Travaux (Somatra-Get). A consortium of Siemens, Colas Rail and Tunisia-based Somatra Construction Company equipped the line with ETCS Level 1, 25kV

traction power supply system, and a centralised control station.

The line is also equipped with GSM-R. The consortium will also equip the 12.2-km-long Line D, which will follow the route of an existing SNCFT (Société du Réseau Ferroviaire Rapide de Tunis) line. A fleet of 28 four-car trains, manufactured by Hyundai Rotem, will be deployed on the line.

The trains are designed to run at an operational speed of 35 km/hr.

Each train has the capacity to carry 2,408 passengers. Service frequency is seven minutes.

The project has been financed by the World Bank, the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the French Development Agency (AFD).

### **Construction and funding for multiple rail projects approved, Angola**

The Government of Angola has approved the construction of the Luanda Light Rail Yellow Line. The contract, worth EUR1.3 billion, was awarded to Siemens Mobility in 2020.

The double-track line will span 39 km from Port of Luanda to Kilamba city, covering 24 stations, with a rolling stock maintenance depot at each end.

The contract also includes the supply of 68 four-car light rail vehicles (LRVs).

Siemens Mobility will also deploy the signalling, telecommunications, and traction power systems, as well as the traffic control system.

Additionally, the Government of Angola has approved funding for the construction of the 260-km-long Luena–Saurimo section of the Benguela Line.

The line covers the inland provinces of Moxico and Lunda Sul.

The construction contract, worth USD1.2 billion, has been awarded to a consortium of Odebrecht International Engineering and Construction (OECI) and Bento Pedrosa Construction (BPC).

The project is included in the National Master Plan for the Transport and Road Infrastructure Sector (Plano Director Nacional do Sector dos Transportes e Infraestruturas Rodoviárias) (PDNSTIR 2019–2038) and is in line with the National Rail Network Expansion Plan.

(1 EUR [Euro] = USD1.10).◆