

media



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Downer EDI awarded contract for the design and supply of locomotives to BHP Billiton Iron Ore's Pilbara operations

Downer EDI Limited (Downer EDI) today announced that its Rail division, EDI Rail, has signed a contract with BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd (BHPBIO) for the design and supply initially of 13 heavy haul diesel electric locomotives, the supply of capital spares, parts and support services for BHPBIO's Pilbara operations in the north west of Australia.

The contract includes options for the supply of further locomotives to support BHPBIO's current mine expansion plans and potentially to also replace existing rollingstock. The 13 locomotives on order will be used to haul iron ore from the mines to port facilities at Port Hedland, Western Australia.

The locomotives, the SD70ACe model with 4300 traction horsepower and 16 cylinder engine, will be manufactured by EDI Rail's technology partner General Motors Electro Motive Division (EMD) at their facilities at London, Ontario, Canada and shipped to Port Hedland for commissioning and handover by EDI Rail. The supply contract is a joint product development between EDI Rail and EMD. The locomotives are scheduled to be delivered to the BHPBIO late 2005.

Guy Wannop, CEO of EDI Rail, said the contract was a significant step for EDI Rail in developing its business in the design, supply and maintenance of heavy-duty rollingstock in the mining sector of Western Australia.

"Together with the recently announced long-term locomotive maintenance contract with Pacific National, it confirms EDI Rail's growing presence as a national supplier and maintainer of freight rollingstock to Australia's mining and resource sector," Mr Wannop said.

Executive General Manager Freight Services of EDI Rail, Danny Broad, said BHP Billiton Iron Ore was attracted by the EMD technology used in this latest purchase and with EDI Rail's assistance, which would be tailored to the client's requirements. "We are delighted that we have been instrumental in bringing our technology partner, EMD, to the table with BHPB Iron Ore in order to facilitate this agreement," Danny said.



EDI Rail is Australia's leading rollingstock provider with comprehensive design, manufacture, maintenance and refurbishment capability. Downer EDI is an Australian top-150 company, which provides comprehensive engineering and infrastructure management services to the public and private transport, energy, communications and resources sectors in Australia, New Zealand and Asia.
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