

MEDIA STATEMENT

For immediate release

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KiwiRail Purchases More Locomotives

KiwiRail has signed a contract with CNR Corporation to supply a further 20, 108-tonne DL Locomotives in the second half of 2012.

According to Chief Executive, Jim Quinn, these are the same locomotives that have recently been delivered to KiwiRail in two stages over the past year.

“This is an important next step in our investment programme to rebuild our antiquated rollingstock fleet,” he said.

“This purchase will add vital new capacity for our freight customers. Something they have been waiting for, for way too long.”

Fourteen new locomotives were delivered to KiwiRail’s Te Rapa depot recently and they have begun their commissioning process to be progressively deployed onto the key freight routes around the North Island.

“We already have the first six of these locomotives in service and they have been receiving positive feedback from our staff,” said Mr Quinn.

“All 20 are scheduled to be fully deployed by the end of this year on the North Island networks.”

Background

The double-cab DLs have a 2700kW engine with similar pulling power to the electric locomotives that are used on the NIMT.

The new locomotives are expected to be 5-10% more fuel efficient when running 1 for 1 replacing the current fleet, and where they replace two existing locomotives the fuel saving is closer to 30%.

KiwiRail currently owns 149 mainline locomotives, and much of its diesel fleet now considered underpowered and outmoded by today’s standards.

The oldest are the DBR and DC classes which date back to 1965. DC locomotives constitute approximately one third of the current fleet and they are 1500 hp.

The newest locomotives, and most powerful at 4000 hp, are 17 EF locomotives built for the electrified section of the North Island Main Trunk in 1988. The newest diesel locomotives are the DX class which average 3000hp, purchased between 1972 and 1976.

The new locomotives have been built by the Dalian Locomotive and Rolling Stock Co. Ltd, which is part of the CNR Group. The CNR Dalian facility employs over 8000 staff including 2000 engineers and technicians. It has been manufacturing locomotives since 1899 and more particularly, diesel electric locomotives for over 40 years. Currently the site is producing over 500 locomotives per annum.

ENDS

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