

Global Mass Transit Weekly

Information & analysis on the global mass transit industry

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

NORTH AMERICA

Amtrak submits budget proposal of USD1.62 billion for FY15	2
RTD begins work on the North Metro commuter rail line	2
GrandLinq secures contract for Waterloo-Kitchener LRT	2
Siemens and Cummins to supply locomotives for Amtrak services	2
CTA to switch to Ventra from July 1, 2014	2
FTA approves Maryland Purple line LRT	3
Tenders invited for supply of bus shelters in Gainesville	3

LATIN AMERICA

Metrô Rio opens Line 1 extension	3
Deloitte-Sener to provide consultancy for Arequipa monorail project	3
Nuevo Metro de Lima the only bidder for Lima metro Line 2 concession	3

ASIA PACIFIC

Jilin Midas to supply extrusion profiles for Shenzhen and Wuhan metrocars	4
JR unveils series E7 HSR trains	4
Siemens delivers driverless train model for Kuala Lumpur MRT	4
IL&FS secures construction contract for Gurgaon metro Phase II	4
Philippines DOTC proposes metro line in Manila; tenders expected by 2015	4
Hollysys secures two signalling system contracts for China HSR	4
Hyundai Rotem to supply 10 KTX-Sancheon HSR trains in South Korea	5
Bank card contract awarded for Namma metro in India	5
Volvo-S.M. Kannappa Automobile JV to introduce new brand of buses in Bangalore	5
Supply of buses in Tokyo	5

EUROPE

LG CNS-led consortium to provide e-ticketing in Athens	5
SBB awards SwissPass supply contract to Trub AG	5
Southern introduces smart card 'Key' at Epsom station	5
National Express awards contract of 600 buses to Alexander Dennis	6
Network Rail renews facilities management contract with Mitie	6
Van Hool delivers buses under the Aberdeen Hydrogen Bus Project	6
MAN secures contract to supply hybrid buses in Sweden	6
Bombardier receives DB's order for 29 S-Bahn trains	6
Costain secures contract for Crossrail	7
Thales to provide video protection for RATP buses and trams	7
New line opens on the EsTram LRT in Turkey	7
Ankara launches electric bus pilot	7
Tramway extension work in Nuremberg, Germany	7

MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA

CITIC signs MoU for tram project in Tabriz, Iran	7
Egypt to invite tenders for Alexandria-Aswan HSR	7
Scania to supply buses and equipment for Ghana BRT	7
Zertia secures contract for internet security on Makkah-Medina HSR	8
Prequalification invited for rail systems on Makkah metro Phase I	8
CNR to supply engines for the Addis Ababa LRT	8
QRDC awards construction contact for Doha metro Gold Line	8
Tenders invited for electrification of railway lines in Iran	8

NORTH AMERICA

Amtrak submits budget proposal of USD1.62 billion for FY15

Amtrak has submitted a budget for USD1.62 billion to the federal government for the financial year 2014-15. This is a 16 per cent increase over the amount allocated for 2013-14.

Of the total amount, USD445 million has been requested for the Northeast Corridor (NEC) to finance planned investments of USD735 million. Amtrak has also stated that capital investment in the NEC will need to rise to USD1.65 billion by 2018 to stabilise infrastructure, improve reliability, and implement enhancement projects.

RTD begins work on the North Metro commuter rail line

The Regional Transportation District (RTD), Denver has launched work on the 21-km-long (13-mile-long) North Metro commuter rail line, which will connect the Denver Union Station and the 124th Avenue in Thornton. The line is expected to require an investment of USD633.8 million and be operational in 2018.

The line is part of RTD's FasTracks project, which involves developing more than 190 km (120 miles) of rail lines and bus rapid transit routes throughout Denver. In December 2013, a joint venture of Graham Contracting and Balfour Beatty Rail secured the USD343-million contract to design and build the line.

GrandLinq secures contract for Waterloo-Kitchener LRT

The GrandLinq consortium has secured the CAD532.1-million contract to design, build, finance, operate and maintain (DBFOM) the 19-km-long LRT line connecting Conestoga Mall in Waterloo and Fairview Park Mall in Kitchener. GrandLinq's partners include Plenary Group Canada, Meridiam Infrastructure Waterloo, Aecon, Kiewit, Mass Electric Construction Canada, Keolis, STV Canada Construction, AECOM, and CIBC World Markets.

The CAD818-million project will be funded by the province (CAD300 million), the federal government (CAD265 million) and the region (CAD253 million).

(1 CAD [Canadian Dollar] = 0.88 USD)

Siemens and Cummins to supply locomotives for Amtrak services

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has formally awarded a USD228-million contract to Siemens and Cummins to supply 32 diesel-electric locomotives for use on Amtrak services in the states of Illinois, California, Michigan, Missouri and Washington.

The contract includes a purchase option for an additional 225 locomotives, including 75 locomotives for regional and 150 for main line operations, which could be worth up to USD1.5 billion to Siemens based on a USD7 million unit price.

The locomotives will operate at a maximum speed of 200 km/hr and will be manufactured at Siemens' plant in Sacramento, California. Cummins will equip the units with its QSK95 diesel engines. Delivery is expected between autumn 2016 and mid-2017.

The locomotives are expected to facilitate higher-speed operations on several Amtrak corridors. This includes the Chicago-St Louis corridor, which began service at a speed of 177 km/hr on a 22.5-km-long section of the Union Pacific line between Dwight and Pontiac in November 2012. Amtrak plans to extend this service to 75 per cent of the line by 2017.

The operator has also commenced service at a speed of 177 km/hr on a 128.7-km-long section of the Chicago-Detroit corridor from Porter (Indiana) to Kalamazoo (Michigan) since February 2012. Work is underway to upgrade 80 per cent of the line for this service by 2015.

The other bidders in the fray were MotivePower (a subsidiary of Wabtec) and Electro-Motive Diesel (a subsidiary of Caterpillar).

Caterpillar is protesting the decision to award the contract to Siemens, claiming that the Siemens locomotive, which will be powered by a 16-cylinder engine, could not meet the 200 km/hr requirement unless it was travelling downhill. IDOT has rejected the protest stating that Siemens' proposal met the contract's technical and performance requirements.

CTA to switch to Ventra from July 1, 2014

The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) has announced that payments for bus and metro rail will be made only through the Ventra contactless smart card from July 1, 2014 and thereafter the

system will no longer accept magnetic-stripe payment cards.

As of March 2014, more than 80 per cent of CTA's riders have made the switch to the Ventra system, which is deployed by US-based Cubic Transportation Systems in September 2013.

The system initially faced several software-related issues with passengers being charged twice or denied access on the metro rail system.

Cubic has since then upgraded the software in the system.

FTA approves Maryland Purple line LRT

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has issued a record-of-decisions for the Maryland Purple Line light-rail transit (LRT) system.

The line will extend 25.8 km from Bethesda in the east to New Carrollton in the west, covering 21 stations.

It will have direct connections with Metrorail's Orange Line, Green Line and two branches of the Red Line as well as the Marc commuter rail Brunswick, Camden and Penn Lines.

The USD2.37-billion project is being implemented on a public-private partnership (PPP) basis by the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA).

With FTA's approval, MTA can now proceed to utilise USD280 million allocated by the state government to prepare the final design and acquire.

Tenders invited for supply of bus shelters in Gainesville

The City of Gainesville has invited tenders to supply bus shelters for the Regional Transit System (RTS) facility in Gainesville.

The last date for the submission of bids is April 16, 2014.

LATIN AMERICA

Metrô Rio opens Line 1 extension

Rio de Janeiro's metro rail developer Metrô Rio has operationalised the Saens Peña-Uruguai extension of Line 1, which spans 1.1 km and covers one station.

Line 1 now extends 20.1 km from Uruguai to Ipanema/General Osorio, covering 20 stations.

The underground extension has been built at an investment of USD107 million and is expected to increase the daily ridership on the line by 36,000 passengers.

Deloitte-Sener to provide consultancy for Arequipa monorail project

Peru's private investment promotion agency ProInversión has awarded the contract to provide consultancy services for the 14-km-long monorail system in Arequipa to a consortium of Deloitte & Touche (Deloitte) and Spanish engineering and construction firm Sener.

The consultant will review and evaluate the pre-investment study, including review of the data and information sources; suggest ways to improve the project design; and assist in defining the economic model for the USD615-million project implementation.

Nuevo Metro de Lima the only bidder for Lima metro Line 2 concession

Nuevo Metro de Lima was the sole bidder to present technical and economic bids for the 'Line 2 and Av. Faucett – Av. Gambetta branch' concession for the Lima metro.

The project involves construction of Line 2 of length 27.22 km covering 27 stations and Line 4 (Callao) of length 7.7 km covering eight stations, which will target the Jorge Chavez International Airport.

The estimated investment is USD6.5 billion.

Nuevo Metro de Lima comprises Peru-based Cosapi, Italy-based Impregilo, Italy-based Ansaldo STS, Italy-based Ansaldo Breda and Spain-based Iridium Concesiones de Infraestructura and Spain-based Vialia Sociedad Gestora de Concesiones de Infraestructura.

The other two bidders shortlisted in February 2014 included Consorcio Metro Subterráneo de Lima, comprising Astaldi S.p.A. and Controladora de Operaciones de Infraestructura S.A. de C.V. as well as Consorcio Metro de Lima Linea 2, comprising Odebrecht LatInvest Perú S.A.C., Graña y Montero S.A.A., Construtora Andrade Gutierrez S.A. Sucursal del Perú and Construtora Queiroz Galvao S.A. Sucursal Perú.

ASIA PACIFIC

Jilin Midas to supply extrusion profiles for Shenzhen and Wuhan metrocars

China-based CNR Changchun Railway Vehicles (CNR) has awarded two contracts of total value USD11.7 million to China-based Jilin Midas Aluminium Company Limited (Jilin Midas), a subsidiary of China-based Midas Holdings Limited, to supply aluminium alloy extrusion profiles for metro trains.

The first contract, worth USD7.7 million, involves supply of aluminium alloy extrusion profiles for 38 six-car trains by 2015 to be deployed on the Shenzhen metro Lines 2 and 5.

The second contract, worth USD4 million, involves supply of aluminium alloy extrusion profiles for 24 six-car trains in 2014 to be deployed on the Wuhan metro Line 4.

JR unveils series E7 HSR trains

East Japan Railway Company (JR East), together with West Japan Railway Company (JR West), has unveiled the first dual-system series E7 high-speed train sets, which will be deployed on the Hokuriku-Kanazawa Shinkansen extension to Nagano in March 2015.

These train sets are also expected to replace the Series E2 units, which have been operational on the Nagano Line since its opening in 1997. In addition, the trains will gradually replace the series E3 mini-Shinkansen trains on the Akita Shinkansen.

Siemens delivers driverless train model for Kuala Lumpur MRT

Germany-based Siemens has delivered a full-size model of the driverless Inspiro metro train for the Sungai Buloh-Kajang Line of the Klang Valley Mass Rapid Transit KV MRT.

The company will deliver a fleet of 58 four-car trains for service in 2017.

The line will connect the Keretapi Tanah Melayu (KTM) commuter railway station at Sungai Buloh with the Sentral station, Maluri and Kajang, covering 31 stations.

The line is currently under construction and is expected to serve around 445,000 passengers daily.

IL&FS secures construction contract for Gurgaon metro Phase II

India-based IL&FS Engineering and Construction Company Limited (IL&FS) has secured a contract worth INR700 million for construction of an elevated depot-cum-workshop for Phase II of the Rapid Metro Rail Gurgaon (RMRG) in the state of Haryana.

The construction is expected to be completed within 24 months from the date of issue of the letter of acceptance (LOA).

The RMRG Phase II comprises a 7-km-long southern extension along the Golf Course Road from Sikandarpur at Bristol Chowk to Sector-56 in Gurgaon, covering six stations. It is being developed at an investment of INR21.43 billion.

IL&FS is currently executing two contracts for RMRG Phase II. These include the INR.256-billion contract to construct a double-track, elevated viaduct and the INR840-million contract to construct five elevated stations.

(1 INR [Indian Rupee] = 0.017 USD)

Philippines DOTC proposes metro line in Manila; tenders expected by 2015

The Philippines Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) has proposed a 20-km long metro line (16-km underground and 4-km elevated) connecting Makati, Pasay and the Bonifacio Global City (BGC) in Manila.

The line will cover 11 stations (five underground, four interchanges and two elevated). The project is estimated to cost about PHP135 billion.

The DOTC is expected to seek project approval from the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) by mid-2014 or end-2014, after which the government may invite construction tenders by mid-2015.

(1 PHP [Philippine Peso] = 0.02 USD)

Hollysys secures two signalling system contracts for China HSR

China Railway Corporation (CRC) has awarded two contracts to China-based automation and control technologies provider Hollysys Automation Technologies Limited (Hollysys), to provide

automatic train protection (ATP) system for two batches of high-speed rail (HSR) trains in 2014.

The contract for trains designed to operate at speeds of 200-250 km/hr is valued at USD29.35 million and the contract for trains designed to operate at speeds of 300-350km/hr is valued at USD82.74 million.

Hyundai Rotem to supply 10 KTX-Sancheon HSR trains in South Korea

South Korea's national train operator Korail has awarded a contract worth USD302 million to domestic company Hyundai Rotem to supply 10 KTX-Sancheon trains in 2017.

The trains will be deployed on the high-speed rail (HSR) lines to Suseo and Mokpo as well as on the HSR line from Suseo to Daejeon and Busan.

The 10-car trains will have the capacity to accommodate 410 passengers and will operate at speeds up to 300 km/hr.

Bank card contract awarded for Namma metro in India

India-based Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has awarded a five-year automatic fare collection (AFC) contract to India-based Federal Bank to launch the Flash debit-cum-transit card for fare collection on the Namma metro Phase 3. The bank will handle all the financial transactions with regard to AFC on the metro sections.

Phase III of the Namma metro will span 133 km, connecting Koramangala, Sarjapur and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

Volvo-S.M. Kannappa Automobile JV to introduce new brand of buses in Bangalore

Sweden-based Volvo Group (Volvo) has announced the introduction of a new brand of UD buses in the city of Bangalore through a joint venture (JV) with India-based S.M. Kannappa Automobile Private Limited (S.M. Kannappa Automobile), a subsidiary of India-based Prakash Roadlines, at an investment of INR1.25 billion. Volvo will hold 15 per cent stake in the JV and will supply technology and design.

The 12-metre-long buses and coaches will be produced in Bangalore during 2014 with delivery expected to begin by late-2014.

(1 INR [Indian Rupee] = 0.017 USD)

Supply of buses in Tokyo

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government has invited tenders to supply 60 step-free, diesel buses in Tokyo. The last date for the submission of bids is April 28, 2014.

EUROPE

LG CNS-led consortium to provide e-ticketing in Athens

The Athens Urban Public Transport Organisation (OASA) has awarded a USD191.1-million contract to a consortium led by South Korea-based LG CNS and comprising Greece-based Terna Energy to build an electronic ticket (e-ticket) system for the bus, trolley and subway systems in Athens.

The e-tickets will replace conventional paper tickets over 12 years. In the first two years, the consortium will set up e-transportation card panels on buses and at subway stations and over the following 10 years, it will operate the system.

SBB awards SwissPass supply contract to Trub AG

The SBB (Swiss Federal Railways) has awarded Trub AG the contract for the production, personalisation and direct mailing of the new card called the 'SwissPass', which is to be introduced in the second half of 2015. Public transport organisations will initially issue the SwissPass for season tickets, half-fare passes, and network subscriptions. Later, the card is expected to be used by other service providers such as PubliBike, SwitzerlandMobility, ski resorts and Mobility Carsharing.

The SwissPass is a smart card with an integrated chip, which will store the customer's ID number. Only the first name, surname, customer number and a photo of the traveller are printed on the card. When the customers hold their card up to the reader of a ticket collector or a sales assistant, the tickets and other services are displayed. No tickets are stored on the chip itself. This means that the card meets the requirements of Swiss data protection.

Southern introduces smart card 'Key' at Epsom station

Train company Southern has introduced the 'Key' smart card at Epsom station for passengers

travelling between Epsom and Dorking. The card can be used to travel to Southern stations outside the London travel zones such as Epsom, Ashtead, Leatherhead, Box Hill and Westhumble.

By spring 2014, passengers will also be able to use the 'Key' for travel to all London terminals.

The card is available for purchase online and via ticket machines at Southern stations. It is rechargeable and offers balance protection. Initially, passengers will be able to buy the following tickets with the 'Key': anytime day singles and returns; off-peak day singles and returns; as well as annual, monthly, and weekly season tickets.

The tickets can be stored and managed through personal online accounts. Other products including Travelcards will be added in the coming months.

National Express awards contract of 600 buses to Alexander Dennis

National Express West Midlands has awarded a GBP100-million contract to Scotland-based Alexander Dennis for the supply of 600 new buses, with some due to enter service in Dundee before the Commonwealth Games kicks off in July 2014.

The vehicles, a mix of double-deckers and smaller "midi" buses, will also operate in Coventry and the West Midlands.

The five-year contract is the largest order placed by a transport operator with a single supplier. The new vehicles will be equipped with the latest technology for passenger comfort and emissions control.

(1 GBP [British Pound] = 1.65 USD)

Network Rail renews facilities management contract with Mitie

Network Rail has renewed a five-year contract worth GBP75 million pounds with services firm Mitie for facilities management including fabric and engineering maintenance, energy management, security, cleaning, mailroom and couriers, helpdesk, and waste and pest management services.

(1 GBP [British Pound] = 1.65 USD)

Van Hool delivers buses under the Aberdeen Hydrogen Bus Project

The Aberdeen city council has taken delivery of four of the 10 hydrogen vehicles ordered from Belgium-

based Van Hool as part of its Hydrogen Bus Project; the rest are due to be delivered in the coming weeks. The buses will be integrated into First and Stagecoach operations from May 2014. Scotland's first large hydrogen-refuelling station is being built at the Kittybrewster depot.

The city has announced plans to deploy the world's largest fleet of hydrogen fuel cell buses by end-2014 as part of its Hydrogen Bus Project (H2 Aberdeen), which aims to drive the development of hydrogen technologies and build strategy for the Energetica Development Corridor. The project partners are Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (AREG), Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise, Technology Strategy Board, Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution, BOC, Van Hool, First, Stagecoach, Scotland Gas Networks, and Element Energy.

MAN secures contract to supply hybrid buses in Sweden

The Swedish public transport company, Keolis Sverige AB, has placed order with MAN for the supply of 181 Lion's City urban buses, of which 52 will be hybrid. It is largest order for MAN hybrid buses placed by any single customer to date. The vehicles will be delivered from the beginning of June 2014 by the Swedish importer Svenska Neoplan AB, who will also be responsible for their service and maintenance.

The buses will be deployed in Stockholm and the surrounding suburbs. All vehicles will meet the Euro 6 exhaust gas emission standards.

Bombardier receives DB's order for 29 S-Bahn trains

Deutsche Bahn (DB), a subsidiary DB Regio, has placed an order for 29 Talent 2 multiple units from Bombardier Transportation for the S-Bahn Mitteldeutschland commuter rail service in central Germany. The contract is valued at USD203 million. The trains will operate from the fall of 2016 on the connection from Halle/Saale and Gaschwitz through the Leipzig City-Tunnel to Dessau-Rosslau and Lutherstadt Wittenberg, among other routes.

The air-conditioned trains will feature roomy compartments for bicycle transport (seating area will be for up to 14 passengers), closed-circuit video cameras, real-time passenger information monitors and universally accessible toilets.

Costain secures contract for Crossrail

Maidenhead-based Costain has secured the GBP150 million contract for most of the works on Crossrail's Stratford to Shenfield Line. The company will also undertake major improvements on stations including Forest Gate, Ilford and Chadwell Heath. Works include extension of platform length for higher-capacity train operations, provision of new step-free lifts and extra stabling facilities, as well as upgradation of existing tracks and overhead electrification equipment. The detailed design phase is under way and works are expected to be undertaken between late-2014 and 2017.

(1 GBP [British Pound] = 1.65 USD)

Thales to provide video protection for RATP buses and trams

Thales has signed a contract with Paris transport operator RATP to equip 1,000 buses and trams with its new On Board Video 8000 solution. The project is co-financed by the Paris regional transport authority, STIF.

Video protection systems are used to record, retrieve, analyse and exploit audiovisual information from cameras installed in passenger spaces. This new solution from Thales incorporates the latest image compression standards, while remaining back-compatible with the previous-generation system. It also allows video metadata tagging, making it quicker and easier to search video footage and pursue investigations.

Since 2002, Thales has equipped close to 4,000 buses and trams operated by RATP. In total, over 6,500 Thales video protection systems are in service on the Paris RER suburban rail network, operated by SNCF, the Transdev Paris East bus lines and the Bordeaux tram network in France.

New line opens on the EsTram LRT in Turkey

The city government of Eskisehir in Turkey inaugurated a new line on the EsTram light-rail transit (LRT) network. The 5-km long line extends from a junction with Line 1 close to Yunuskent station to a newly built terminus at Açelya, covering seven stations. It serves the eastern districts of the city.

With this launch, the overall length of the LRT network has increased to 20 km. A fleet of Bombardier Flexity Outlook light-rail vehicles has been deployed on the line.

Ankara launches electric bus pilot

The city government of Ankara has launched a pilot programme for the deployment of electric buses. The electric bus, supplied by China-based BYD, will be in service between Kuulu Park and Altınpark for one month.

Tramway extension work in Nuremberg, Germany

The Verkehrs-Aktiengesellschaft (VAG) has invited tenders to extend tram Line 4 by 2.5-km route along the Erlanger Road in Nuremberg. The duration of the contract is from July 1, 2014 to November 10, 2017. The last date for the submission of bids is May 15, 2014.

MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA

CITIC signs MoU for tram project in Tabriz, Iran

China-based CITIC Group Corporation (CITIC) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the municipality of Tabriz for the construction of a tramway along the Azadi Boulevard and Azerbaijan Boulevard to the south and west of the Tabriz city centre. CITIC will also evaluate options for a 6-km-long metro line between El Gholi and Shahriyar.

Egypt to invite tenders for Alexandria-Aswan HSR

The Government of Egypt has announced plans to invite tenders for the construction of a 1,200-km-long high-speed transit (HSR) line which from Alexandria to Aswan via Giza, Asyut and Luxor. The project is expected to require an investment of USD10 billion. It had earlier been shelved after a technical study by Italy-based Italferr in 2009.

The project is to be developed in three phases. Phase I will extend 200 km from Alexandria to Giza and is expected to be completed in three years. Phases II and III will extend about 400 km each from Giza to Asyut and Luxor, respectively.

Scania to supply buses and equipment for Ghana BRT

Sweden-based commercial vehicle manufacturer Scania AB (Scania) has secured the contract supply 300 buses as well as ancillary equipment and services (ticket machines, workshops, operational

support and infrastructure) for the upcoming bus rapid transit (BRT) system in Accra.

Commercial operations on Phase I of the Accra BRT connecting Amasaman to the central business district (CBD) are expected to start from July 1, 2014. The BRT is being constructed in four phases – Amasaman-CBD, Adenta-CBD, Kasoa-CBD and Tema-CBD. The project is part of the Ghana Urban Transport Project (GUTP), funded by the International Development Association (IDA), the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and the Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD).

Zertia secures contract for internet security on Makkah-Medina HSR

Spain-based Zertia Telecom (Zertia) has secured a contract to manage the internet access, security and corporate application integration for Phase II of the Makkah-Medina high-speed rail (HSR) project in Saudi Arabia.

The USD7-billion project, also known as the Western Railway, will link the holy cities of Makkah and Medina through the King Abdullah Economic City, Rabigh, Jeddah and the King Abdulaziz International Airport. The trains will run at a speed of 320 km/hr and will reduce the travel time to about 30 minutes between Jeddah and Makkah, and to about two hours between Jeddah and Medina.

Prequalification invited for rail systems on Makkah metro Phase I

The Development Commission of Makkah and Mashaer has invited companies to prequalify for rail system works on Phase I of the Makkah metro project in Saudi Arabia. The scope of work includes track work, signalling, systems (including traction power), telecommunication, stations, and building fit-out; mechanical, electrical and plumbing (MEP) works, as well as overall system integration. The deadline for submitting prequalification documents is May 26, 2014.

Phase I of the project will cover partial construction of the 12-km long Line B covering seven stations and the 22-km long Line C covering 15 stations.

CNR to supply engines for the Addis Ababa LRT

The Ethiopian government has signed an agreement with China-based train manufacturer CNR Corporation Limited (CNR) to provide 41 engines

for deployment on the Addis Ababa light-rail transit (LRT), which is currently under construction.

The engines will be designed to operate at a maximum speed of 70 km/hr and will be sunlight-resistant.

CNR is expected to deliver the first batch by end-2014. This will be the first time that LRT engines manufactured in China will be deployed in Africa.

The 34.2-km long LRT is being developed by the Ethiopian Railway Corporation (ERC) in Addis Ababa.

QRDC awards construction contact for Doha metro Gold Line

Qatar Railways Development Company (QRDC) has issued the letter of award (LoA) for a USD3.3-billion contract to the consortium of Greece-based Aktor S.A., Turkey-based Yapi Merkezi, Turkey-based STFA, India-based Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T) and Qatar-based Aljaber Engineering LLC. The scope of work includes construction of the underground sections of Doha metro's Gold Line.

In February 2014, QRDC had issued conditional LoAs to the two contracting groups competing for the construction contract, giving them a final chance to submit their commercial offers.

The other group competing for the contract was the consortium of Germany-based Hochtief, Qatar-based Al-Jaber Trading, Athens-based Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC), Qatar-based Marbu Contracting Company and Qatar-based Lusail Hochtief.

The Doha metro network, spanning 212 km (Red, Green, Gold and Blue lines) and covering 89 stations, is being built at an investment of over EUR20 billion.

(1 EUR [Euro] = 1.37 USD)

Tenders invited for electrification of railway lines in Iran

The Iranian Islamic Republic Railways has invited tenders to electrify the entire 6,000-km-long existing railway network in Iran. The project will be implemented on an engineering, procurement, construction and finance (EPCF) basis. The last date for the submission of bids is May 20, 2014. ♦