



Media Release

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RailCorp safety boost with digital train radio

RailCorp today announced that UGL Limited has been awarded the contract to design, install and maintain the digital radio system for RailCorp's trains in NSW.

RailCorp Head of Engineering and Projects Ian McCullough said the digital radio system was vital technology for rail safety and will replace the existing Metronet radio network, which is coming to the end of its operating life.

"The new digital radio system will have better functions than the current network and provides a foundation for other safety initiatives such as Automatic Train Protection" Mr McCullough said.

"The new digital system enhances communication between trains and network control in case of an emergency.

"The new system will also have additional functionality enabling communications between other rail staff such as track workers and transit officers, and by freight operators."

UGL Limited's Managing Director and CEO Richard Leupen said this long term contract is another example of the excellent partnership between UGL and RailCorp.

"We are delighted to be working with RailCorp on this project and delivering this advanced technology to Sydney's passenger rail network," Mr Leupen said.

"This project complements our existing works with RailCorp which include ongoing passenger car maintenance works and the ongoing build program for the Outer Suburban railcars for the Sydney network."

RailCorp's move to a digital train radio system is in line with recommendations of the inquiries into the Waterfall and Glenbrook rail accidents.

The new system will be interoperable for all rail operations on the RailCorp network and will facilitate an integrated voice communications system for train control, signalling, train crew, shunting, trackside and security personnel.

RailCorp purchased the radio spectrum for this project in 2006 as the first step in establishing an integrated GSM-R system to provide voice and data communications links.

This contract for the digital train radio system forms part of a broader program of radio communication upgrade work including:

- Upgrade of associated RailCorp facilities,
- Integration work across the rail network to interface the new radio into RailCorp communication systems,
- Upgrade of associated RailCorp power systems,
- Supporting infrastructure works across the rail network and
- A comprehensive support strategy for the full service life of the new radio system.

This program of work represents a \$272million total investment by the NSW Government.

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