

Press release

Munich, February 15, 2017

Knorr-Bremse chosen for brake systems for 800 double locomotives in India

They are faster and safer – the 800 new Prima E double diesel-electric locomotives being built by Alstom for Indian State Railways. The braking systems are being supplied by Knorr-Bremse, whose production site in Palwal, northwestern India, meets two crucial requirements to receive the order: it can deliver rapidly and at the same time comply with strict localization regulations.

Over the next decades, India intends to significantly expand its rail freight network, creating two new freight corridors across the country, each well over a thousand kilometers in length. One will link the northern state of Punjab with West Bengal, and the other will run from the Jawaharlal Nehru Harbour near Mumbai to the region round the capital city of Delhi. The 800 Prima E double electric locomotives will also operate on these two lines, pulling trains weighing of up to 6,000 tons at speeds of up to 120 km/h. Knorr-Bremse is responsible for supplying the braking systems for this order, ensuring that the locomotives can always be brought safely to a halt.

“We are very proud to be involved in such an important infrastructure project,” says Klaus Deller, Chairman of the Executive Board of Knorr-Bremse AG and responsible for the Rail Vehicle Systems division. The company is supplying complete braking systems for the locomotives – brake control unit, air treatment and bogie equipment – all of them tailor-made for local conditions: In this case, the UIC standard has been adapted for Indian Railways. The systems are based on the CCBII-IR brake control system, which is itself a development of the CCBII system and for some years has been installed in the majority of new locomotives operated by Indian Railways. Knorr-Bremse is also taking on responsibility for servicing its systems in 250 of the WAG 12 double locomotives for a minimum of 13 years.

“Thanks to the relocation of our Indian plant almost three years ago, we now have a local presence close to the customer,” explains Deller. The move had become necessary as the Indian rail market was rapidly expanding and the old plant had reached the limits of its capacity. The new site has 26,000 square meters of office and factory space, where Knorr-Bremse can draw on the expertise of a loyal, highly experienced workforce to manufacture brake control units, bogie equipment, compressors and air dryers mainly for the Indian market, working closely with certified regional suppliers and on the basis of the globally standardized Knorr-Bremse production system (KPS). Knorr-Bremse’s Palwal facility helps the company to meet the high localization requirements of the Indian market and generate a large proportion of the added value related to the order. The first deliveries are slated for mid-2017 and will run for a period of 11 years.

Caption: Knorr-Bremse is supplying braking systems to make sure the WAG12 double locomotives can always be brought safely to a halt. | © Alstom

Knorr-Bremse is a leading manufacturer of braking systems and supplier of additional sub-systems for rail and commercial vehicles, with sales totaling approximately EUR 5.5 billion in 2016. Some 25,000 employees develop, manufacture, and service braking, entrance, control, and energy supply systems, HVAC and driver assistance systems as well as powertrain-related solutions. Ever since 1905 the company has been pioneering new technologies that make a crucial contribution to improving road and rail safety. Every day, more than one billion people around the world put their trust in systems made by Knorr-Bremse.

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