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Siemens Announces National Rail Signalling Technology Centre in Queensland

- \$4.8 million investment into a national European Train Control System (ETCS) Technology Centre in Queensland
- Brisbane based rail engineers to deliver rail expertise nationwide and export knowledge to Southeast Asian countries
- Centre to deliver cutting-edge ETCS technology that is fast becoming the global standard for train control

Today Siemens announced a \$4.8 million investment into a European Train Control System (ETCS) Signalling Centre in Brisbane, with the aim of creating more hi-tech jobs and future export industries from Australia. The Centre will support ETCS rail signalling technology that is fast becoming the global standard for train control and seen as pivotal for future development of existing rail networks. The announcement was made at AusRAIL PLUS 2017, the country's largest convention of rail industry experts.

This investment into people (current and future employment), technology and training will see Queensland lead the country and Asia Pacific in ETCS technology, which is being acknowledged as a priority for rail networks nationwide. ETCS is a replacement for legacy train control and safety systems, allowing operators to increase capacity and improve safety on their networks through proven signalling technology.

Speaking at the announcement, Siemens Australia and New Zealand CEO and Chairman Jeff Connolly said, "This is a demonstration of Siemens' commitment of building rail signalling expertise in Australia and projects our confidence and support

to the State of Queensland.”

This announcement follows the successful implementation of ETCS in Adelaide and Auckland (NZ) by Siemens and strong demand for the technology and engineering expertise from markets such as Thailand. The work done by Siemens on the Auckland Rail electrification and re-signalling project has helped safely unlock the capacity to allow an average of 20 per cent year-on-year increase in train patronage in the city over a period of two years.

“We need intelligent rail infrastructure capable of coping with future needs. The best way to do this is to build local skills in globally proven rail standards and technology such as ETCS,” said Connolly. “This ETCS rail signalling centre is in Queensland, for Australia to the world.”

Connolly is a firm believer that we can get rail right in Australia with a strategic and aligned approach. “If we invest in proven global technologies rather than reinventing the wheel, choose the right technology partners and invest in developing technological skills of our people, then we create opportunities for future growth and make our local and national rail networks more competitive.

“Over the past few years, we’ve witnessed a strong demand for our rail expertise from neighbouring South Asian countries – proving that when given the right platform, Australian ingenuity can excel on the world stage. The Queensland team has already played a significant role in ETCS implementations in Australia and Asia Pacific and are well positioned to sustain this growth.”

Siemens in Australia has the most rail signalling experts in the Southern Hemisphere and the rail businesses alone employ around 500 people locally.

Danny Broad, the CEO of the Australasian Railway Association, welcomed the announcement and said that, “This commitment by Siemens is major vote of confidence in Australia’s rail industry.”

Rail infrastructure is a key focus for the Federal and State Governments with billions of dollars earmarked to support projected growth and needs of our economy, said Broad.

“It makes sense to leverage globally proven technology and build the skills and knowledge locally to support Australia’s rail industry. Although Siemens is a global and German brand, they are also very much Australian having celebrated their 145th anniversary in Australia this year,” Broad said.

Also speaking at the announcement, visiting global Head of Mainline Rail Automation for Siemens, Gerhard Greiter, highlighted the global momentum of ETCS stating, “The technical prowess and interoperability of ETCS is unquestionable – it is by far one of the most significant advances in rail in recent times. Our roll out of the technology in China (Beijing-Tianjin high speed line), Saudi Arabia, Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Spain, New Zealand and here in Australia has definitely cemented Siemens as one of the global leaders in ETCS.

“The acceptance of ETCS doesn’t come as a surprise given its safety record and its ability to reduce investment costs by up to a third and significantly lower energy consumption. The team in Queensland have already been trained amongst the best in the world and will now play a pivotal role in taking Australian expertise to the world.”

This is not the first time Siemens is facilitating the export of Australian ingenuity to the world from Queensland. The state is also home to Siemens’ Fusesaver, an Australian innovation, owned by Siemens, that is now exported to over 20 countries and is helping eliminate 80 percent of sustained electricity outages on rural networks.

Key facts:

- The Siemens ETCS Signalling Technology Centre has started with 10 people and will grow to about 17 people over the next 12 months (with intentions to grow the number of employees to as many as 30-40 subject to demand)

- Siemens invested \$5 million into the Rockhampton service centre in the heart of Queensland's mining community. This investment has seen the facility get Australia's largest and most advanced test rig for mining, wind power and other core industries
- Siemens technology is used in every major Oil & Gas project in Queensland
- Working in partnership with Queensland University of Technology and the Defence Science and Technology Group, Siemens is conducting research into high temperature superconducting (HTS) technologies and exploring its applications to Australia's maritime defence and industrial power requirements

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