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Super Transport Jet to Deliver Metro's First 2550 Rail Car



The Russian-built Antonov AN-124 is 226 feet, 9 inches long; 68 feet, 2 inches high; and has a wingspan of 240 feet, 6 inches. The four-engine aircraft has a payload of up to 150 metric tons and can cruise at speeds between 430 and 460 knots for a range of 8,900 nautical miles. The plane's design is similar to the U.S. Air Force Lockheed C-5 Galaxy.



Metro's new 2550 car was tested at manufacturer's facility in Pistoia, Italy, before being readied for shipment to Los Angeles.

· Russian jet, one of world's largest, due Saturday at LAX

By ED SCANNELL

(June 9, 2005) In a first for Metro, a super transport jet is scheduled to deliver a new light-rail vehicle to Los Angeles, this Saturday, the lead car of 50 built in Italy by Ansaldobreda SpA for service on the Metro Blue, Green and Gold Lines, including the Eastside Extension.

Joined by elected officials and Ansaldobreda executives on the tarmac at LAX's Imperial Terminal, Metro officials plan to welcome the Russian-built Antonov AN-124 – one of the world's largest cargo planes – carrying the 2550 Light Rail Vehicle.

A crew will roll the new car onto a flatbed truck for delivery to the Metro Gold Line maintenance facility north of downtown LA.

Each of the 90-foot, 54-ton rail cars costs \$2.9 million. Features include seating for 76 passengers, locations for four wheelchairs and a top in-service speed of 65 mph. The cars will have a stainless steel exterior, 12 interior and eight exterior public address speakers and two passenger intercoms per car.

Electronics include a Global Positioning System for automatic station announcements, two silent alarms and three video surveillance cameras per car.

Metro Gold Line first

The first deployment of the 2550 will occur on the Metro Gold Line in late 2005 or early 2006.

The 2550 contract with Ansaldobreda includes two 50-car options to accommodate future growth of the Metro Rail System.

Based in Naples, Italy, Ansaldobreda S.p.A. is one of several leading manufacturers of both heavy and light-rail vehicles. The company has designed and manufactured light-rail vehicles for such major transit systems as San Francisco, Cleveland and Boston, as well as for operations in several European cities.

Ansaldobreda also designed and manufactured heavy-rail rail vehicles for Washington, D.C. and Atlanta, as well as the 104 cars currently in use on the Metro Red Line.

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