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During loading of the Antonov AN-124, Metro's new light-rail vehicle is covered with a protective tarp, but the Metro logo is just visible in the lighted cargo bay.



Ready to Fly:

Metro's 2550 Rail Car Boards Russian Aircraft

(June 10, 2005) In a late-night operation, Thursday, AnsaldoBreda officials supervised the loading of Metro's first 2550 rail car onto a Russian-built cargo plane at an airport in Pisa, Italy.

After loading, the aircraft, flown by a British crew, took off for Reykjavik, Iceland – the first leg of a 6,300-mile flight to California. It will depart Reykjavik late Friday for LAX.

On Saturday, Metro officials, local officials and AnsaldoBreda executives will welcome the 90-foot, 54-ton rail car to Los Angeles.



Illustration shows the flat-bed truck that will transport Metro's 2550 rail car to the Metro Gold Line yard. The rig has all-wheel steering in order to more easily maneuver through streets to the rail yard.

At LAX, a crew will roll the new car onto a flatbed truck for delivery, June 14, to the Metro Gold Line maintenance facility north of downtown LA. The first deployment of the 2550 will occur on the Metro Gold Line

in late 2005 or early 2006.

Due to security concerns at LAX, Metro staff and the public will not have access to the staging area. MyMetro.net will provide photos and a story, next week, about the landing and unloading.

The 2550 contract with AnsaldoBreda includes two 50-car options to accommodate future growth of the Metro Rail System. The remainder of the light-rail cars will be shipped by sea.

AnsaldoBreda is delivering Metro's first 2550 car only 24 months after the construction contract was awarded. Constructing such vehicles normally takes 30 to 36 months.

-- Larry Kelsey contributed to this story.

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