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CONTACT--

Metro MEDIA RELATIONS

(213) 922-2700

www.metro.net/press/pressroom

e-mail-- mediarelations@metro.net

First of 50 Italian-Made Light Rail Vehicles for Metro Blue, Green and Gold Lines Delivered by Russian Super Transport Plane

In a first for Metro, a super transport jet delivered a new light rail vehicle to Los Angeles, marking the beginning of Metro's 50-car order from Italy's AnsaldoBreda S. p. A. Metro and elected officials joined AnsaldoBreda executives on the tarmac at LAX's Imperial Terminal as a Russian-built Antonov AN-124 opened its cargo bay to reveal the 2550 Light Rail Vehicle, which was then rolled onto a flatbed truck for delivery to the Metro Gold Line maintenance facility in Los Angeles.

"The 2250 rail car will serve our passengers well as we continue to expand the Metro Rail System," said Frank Roberts, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board Chair. "Metro has had an excellent working relationship with AnsaldoBreda and we look forward to the future deliveries of this great vehicle."

Each 2550 Light Rail Vehicle costs \$2.9 million, is 90 feet long and weighs 54 tons. Other features include:

- seating for 76 passengers
- locations for four wheelchairs
- top in-service speed of 65 mph
- stainless steel exterior
- 12 interior/8 exterior public address speakers two passenger intercoms per car
- global Positioning System for automatic station announcement
- two silent alarms
- three video surveillance cameras per car

"The 2550 is as technologically advanced as any light rail car operating in the United States," said Roger Snoble, Metro's chief executive officer. "AnsaldoBreda has answered our call for a first class vehicle that meets the needs of all three Metro Rail light rail lines, to be delivered on time and within budget."

The 50 2550 rail cars will operate on the Metro Blue, Green and Gold Lines, including the Metro Gold Line's future Eastside Extension, which is due to open in December 2009. The first deployment of the 2550 will occur on the Metro Gold Line in late 2005 or early 2006.

The 2550 contract includes two 50-car options for the procurement of additional rail cars 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 major transit operations in U.S. cities including San Francisco, Atlanta and Boston, as well as for operations in several European cities. AnsaldoBreda also designed and manufactured the 104 heavy rail vehicles currently in use on the Metro Red Line subway.

Metro operates 73.1 miles of light and heavy rail and serves nearly a quarter million boarding passengers on an average weekday.

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