

Finmeccanica: from Botswana Railways first contract in Africa for Ansaldo Signal (valued 20 million Euros)

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Ansaldo Signal, a Finmeccanica Company, has been awarded a euro 20 million contract by Botswana Railways to provide new Safeworking Systems for train control, signaling and communications for Botswana's railway network.

The project is over a route length of 622 kilometres between Mafikeng in South Africa, to Plumtree in Zimbabwe, through Gaborone, the capital city of Botswana and includes the extension from Francistown to Sua Pan in the West. The project completion period is 21 months for the design and construct scope of works, followed by a further system maintenance contract.

The award of the project is significant as this is the first foray into Africa by Union Switch & Signal Pvt, fully owned by Ansaldo Signal, and is a milestone achievement for the company. US&S will design, supply, install, test and commission and maintain the new safeworking systems covering 8 controlled stations, 23 non-controlled crossing loops and 21 level crossings.

The scope of the work includes Train Control Systems, which will electronically manage and validate all train movements and provide train tracking through GPS position reports; Train Management Systems, providing automatic generation of daily train timetables and train graphs and train movement information from the GPS; Signalling Systems through the use of US&S's Microlok II processor based interlockings, train detection systems and level crossing protection systems and Communications Systems through a microwave Ethernet bearer; UHF radio communications and PABX systems.

The operations control centre will be located in Mahalapye and equipped with the central control equipment and workstations for up to 8 train controllers.