

Ansaldo STS wins USD 67 million order in India

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New railway signalling & telecommunications system for a 413 km stretch of the country's busiest rail line, between Ghaziabad and Kanpur.

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Finmeccanica company Ansaldo STS, which is shortly to be floated on the Milan stock market, has secured the largest ever signalling & telecommunications contract awarded by Indian Railways, the world's second largest railway company, covering 62,000 km of track. The order, worth USD 67 million, is to supply Indian Railways with new signalling & telecommunications systems for the stretch between Ghaziabad and Kanpur.

The line, located in the north of the country is part of the Delhi-Kolkata route, the most important and busiest artery on the entire Indian network.

Ansaldo STS, via its Indian subsidiary Union Switch & Signal Pvt Ltd, who currently employs approx. 150 personnel in India, will provide all of the signalling & telecommunications systems for 413 km of rail line and 49 stations. The work is scheduled for completion in July 2009.

Ansaldo STS will design, manufacture and install a state of the art train control and microprocessor based signalling system that will dramatically improve the safety, transit times, capacity and reliability of the busiest section rail line in the country.

Furthermore under this contract the company will integrate a Fibre Optic Communications backbone and a GSM-R Mobile Communications System. These communications systems will link the field equipment and trains with the control centre.

This new contract is further acknowledgement of Ansaldo STS's ability to offer high quality safety systems to international standards.

The company currently enjoys the dominant share of the Indian main line railway signalling market, which is expected to grow at a much faster rate than the global average. Through the company's experience on this and previous contracts which include the supply of the European Railway Traffic Management System (ERTMS), the company expects further growth and consolidation of its industrial presence in the Indian market.