

ALSTOM's NEW PRESTON SERVICE CENTRE LAUNCHED

ALSTOM is delighted to join with The Victorian Minister for Transport, the Hon. Peter Batchelor and distinguished guests today to launch Preston facility as an ALSTOM-managed Service Centre.

This facility will complement other ALSTOM service centres located throughout Victoria, which currently provide maintenance, overhaul, refurbishment and manufacturing for rail passenger, tram and freight customers.

Following successful delivery of the majority of the state of the art CITADIS trams to Yarra Trams, ALSTOM will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the CITADIS fleet, with Preston providing an additional flexibility to meet demand in the future.

Michael O'Rourke, Chief Executive of ALSTOM's Australian Rail Transport business, said that the establishment of the ALSTOM Preston Service Centre will be a key element of its strategy to provide improved quality services to its customers through continued investment in rolling stock manufacturing and maintenance activities.

"At Preston, this investment will initially involve a reconfiguration of the work floor layout and improved information technology systems to enhance service quality. We will also relocate our recently established electronics business to Preston and have under active consideration additional investment in latest technology test facilities." Mr O'Rourke said.

"The integration of Preston with ALSTOM's well established facility in Ballarat provides a solid base for the manufacture of light rail vehicles in Victoria."

At Ballarat, ALSTOM has progressively developed its manufacturing capabilities following successful refurbishment of the entire Comeng fleet for Connex and manufacture of a number of freight wagons for Freight Australia and CFCL Australia. ALSTOM will also soon begin the assembly and commissioning of new X'TRAPOLIS passenger trains for Connex.

ALSTOM's leadership in the supply of technology to the rail infrastructure and rolling stock markets has also been strengthened by its involvement in the Victorian Regional Fast Rail Project (in a joint venture with Thies) and the Parramatta Rail Link Project in Sydney (as part of the Thies Hochtief ALSTOM Group).

ALSTOM is proud to be providing new jobs and career prospects across both metropolitan and regional Victoria.