



MEDIA RELEASE

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Atlas Lathe Cuts Time in Rio

Atlas Rail is about to complete a significant project for Rio Tinto's 7 Mile operations in Karratha, Western Australia with the commissioning of its third Australian delivered Under Floor Wheel Lathe (UFWL).

Commissioning of the lathe is being completed at Atlas Rail's Moorabbin, Victoria workshop. The new lathe will be installed in mid September and will be fully operational by mid October 2008.

It is capable of performing 10mm cuts on the Rio Tinto fleet of locomotives/ore cars resulting in increased throughput of wheel turning operations.

This new lathe for Rio Tinto will replace and improve on an existing lathe at the company's 7 Mile RSM workshop.

Atlas Rail's lathe is capable of undertaking cuts up to 10mm, resulting in increased throughput as a result of shorter cycle times as it can remove the same amount of material in one cut that previously may have taken two or sometimes three cuts.

The lathe was completely designed, manufactured and assembled at Atlas Rail's Moorabbin, Victoria workshop by specially trained and highly skilled technicians.

The same technicians that manufacture the equipment also work as in-service technicians for maintenance and trouble shooting operations because they understand and know the equipment inside-out.

"I'm not aware of any other company that can offer its customers a service that has the same people to design the equipment, manufacture the equipment, commission it and then service it as well," said Chris Brugeaud, General Manager – Atlas Rail.

"Using this methodology means that the support team that service the equipment know everything about it, because they've been instrumental throughout the entire process."

A remote diagnostics feature on this underfloor wheel lathe enables Atlas Rail service technicians to upload new programs and wheel profiles.

This same remote diagnostics feature is also effective in resolving most issues encountered in-service via telephone or internet connection, thus saving time and money. Operator screens and a fault log can be accessed online that enable technicians to help operators onsite troubleshoot a variety of issues.

The Atlas Rail UFWL is designed to re-profile wheel sets for a wide range of rolling stock. It is a proven design of heavy construction intended for many years of service.

The standard machine configuration is capable of machining wheel sets with tread diameters ranging from 600 to 1400mm, and profile widths ranging from 80mm to 145mm.

The lathe is capable of machining to the following accuracies:

Difference of diameters same axle = 0.2mm

Difference between diameters of the wheels of given bogie = 0.3mm

Rotational accuracy (Total Indicated Run-out, Radial) = 0.15mm

Profile geometry (Actual to Theoretical) = +/- 0.05mm

Surface finish (dependent on feed rate) = Ra 8 – 25

Atlas Rail has UFWL already installed at QR's Callemondah and Jilalan Depots, as well as numerous others around the globe.

Atlas Rail is also building a Tandem Under Floor Wheel Lathe as part of the NSW PPP project due for installation in March 2009.

**For more information contact Chris Brugeaud, General Manager,
Atlas Rail on 03 8552 0600, or chris_brugeaud@marand.com.au**



Hi Resolution photos available please send request: mandypj@optusnet.com.au

