



Vietnam to Collaborate with Belarus and Russia

The Vietnamese government is looking to collaborate with Russia and Belarus in automobile manufacturing in an apparent effort to boost the local auto industry.

The governments finished talks on the collaboration and are expected to ink official agreements sometime between the end of next month and the beginning of March, the Ministry of Industry and Trade reported.

According to the plans, Vietnamese automakers will join hands with foreign companies such as KAMAZ, GAZ, UAZ and MAZ to set up joint-ventures here to produce and assemble vehicles such as trucks, cars with more than 10 seats, and off-road cars.



Their products will also be exported to Southeast Asian countries to enjoy a tariff-free policy that will take effect in 2018, it said.

The joint-ventures will be first allowed to import complete units tax-free to sell in

Vietnam. After learning more about the local market, they will then bring in parts for assembly, also free of tax.

In return, foreign manufacturers are obliged to provide technical support for local parts suppliers. The goal is to increase the ratio of local parts and components in their products to 35 percent in 2020, and 45 percent in 2026, it said.

Vietnam's auto industry has for years failed to live up to the high expectations set for it after many favorable policies. Critics said after decades of government support, the industry mostly does assembly work for foreign companies, with the use of local parts and components remaining painfully low.

Siemens Opens New Rail Vehicle Services Plant in Sacramento



Siemens has opened a new 60,000ft² rail vehicle servicing, maintenance and repair plant in Sacramento, California, US.

The plant has been established at the McClellan Park business development on the former McClellan Air Force Base in Sacramento.

The McClellan Park facility will be Siemens Mobility's US customer services headquarters and West Coast logistics hub, housing its vehicle refurbishment and accident repair activities, a bogie service centre, spare parts services and administrative offices.

The new rail service plant will have more than 30 staff and will complement the company's existing rail manufacturing facility in Sacramento, which employs more than 800 people and has recently been expanded.

"We are looking forward to a long-term

relationship with the Siemens organisation at McClellan Park."

Siemens Mobility customer service head Chris Maynard said "This expansion signals our dedication to servicing and modernising rail systems across North America while continuing to deliver industry-leading manufacturing expertise, ensuring that our

customers can continue to make the most of their rail systems."

One of the first projects at the new facility will be a \$21 million contract to modernise 32 SD160 light rail vehicles for Calgary Transit in Alberta, Canada.

The first projects to be carried out at the new facility include a \$21m modernisation of 32 Calgary Transit SD160 light rail vehicles (LRVs), as well as the refurbishment of 21

LRVs for Sacramento Regional Transit (RT). Under the Calgary Transit refurbishment project, work will include upgrading passenger information systems for better interoperability across the fleet, improved wheel-set systems for easier maintenance, updated flooring and seating, and upgraded operators' cab interior and dash.

The refurbished 21 LRVs for the RT system will add about 15 years of additional useful life to the vehicles. The LRVs are currently in operation on the Blue Line to Cosumnes River College extension.

McClellan Business Park senior vice-president Ken Giannotti said "We worked aggressively to assure that the facilities at McClellan Park could be redesigned and built to accommodate Siemens specialised requirements. "We are looking forward to a long-term relationship with the Siemens organisation at McClellan Park."

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