

Genoa, 6th February 2007

Ansaldo STS: Agreement with mining giant Rio Tinto for the construction of a new railway line in Australia

- **Contract worth more than EUR 15 million**
- **Ansaldo STS's expansion in Asia- Pacific region continues**

Ansaldo STS (Ticker: STS), through its Australian subsidiary Union Switch & Signal Pty. Ltd, has reached a major agreement with Rio Tinto, the mining industry giant listed on the London Stock Exchange (Ticker: RIO), for the construction of a new rail line in Australia.

The contract value is for more than Eur 15 million

The new line, which will stretch 50 km when completed, is to be built in North-West Australia and will link a new ferrous minerals mine developed by Rio Tinto with the existing rail system.

Ansaldo STS will supply the signalling, train protection and automated train control systems for the project, maximising the safety of train operation and reducing wear and tear on infrastructure. Ansaldo STS will also upgrade the installed technology on the existing infrastructure to ensure completely integrated control of the new line.

The accord with Rio Tinto underscores Ansaldo STS strong positioning in Australia, where the Group has long operated through Union Switch & Signal Pty. Ltd, which boasts more than 400 engineers and technicians on its staff. Today it is one of the most important partners in the development of the country's rail systems. The company recently signed an alliance agreement with Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) for the modernisation of control systems for trains operating along the North Coast of Australia, with an expected value of more than EUR 80 million.

The signing of the agreement with Rio Tinto further strengthens Ansaldo STS's leadership in rail signalling and train control systems in the Asia – Pacific region, especially in the rapidly expanding markets of South-East Asia, China and India, and confirms the importance of this area in the company's global strategy.

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