

Etihad Rail and CAF sign deal for manufacture and supply of passenger trains

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Etihad Rail, the developer and operator of the UAE National Rail Network, and **CAF** have signed an agreement for design, manufacture, supply, and maintenance of passenger trains for the UAE National Rail Network.

The contract was signed by His Excellency Shadi Malak, CEO of Etihad Rail, and Josu Imaz, CEO Rolling Stock of CAF at Sakamkam in Fujairah.

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- **Rail projects taking a leading role in UAE, says GlobalData's MEED**

Under the terms of the agreement, CAF will manufacture, supply, and provide maintenance for passenger trains as per the European standards. Each train will have a seating capacity of over 400 passengers, and will run up to 200 km/h, which is currently the highest operating speed for diesel-powered passenger trains. The trains, which will offer a variety of seating segments, will serve as a major addition to the public

transport system in the UAE.

His Excellency Shadi Malak, Chief Executive Officer of Etihad Rail, said: “The agreement comes as part of Etihad Rail’s efforts to develop passenger transport services. It reflects the company’s continuous commitment to developing the UAE’s national and strategic project according to the highest standards, criteria, and schedules. Therefore, we ensure working in cooperation with the best companies in the world like Spain’s CAF, which has extensive world-renowned experience in the railway and passenger transport services dating back to more than 100 years ago, in addition to their considerable experience in manufacturing trains specifically in the Gulf region.”

“The development of the passenger railway services, one of the three strategic projects of the National Railways Programme, seeks to enhance the public transportation system in the UAE and improve living standards of the UAE’s citizens and residents, while adhering to the best international security and safety standards. The passenger trains will facilitate transport across the cities of the UAE, providing passengers with a quick, efficient, safe, comfortable, and cost-saving travel experience,” His Excellency added.

Josu Imaz, Chief Executive Officer Rolling Stock of CAF, said: “We take great pride and are extremely grateful for the trust placed in us by Etihad Rail by selecting CAF to complete this significant project. We are well aware of how important this project is,

as part of the plans to shape the future development of the country’s railway sector, where CAF intends to contribute with its experience and expertise.”

“This trust further strengthens CAF’s unwavering commitment to the region and to promoting the development of the country’s railway facilities, whilst also consolidating the Company’s endeavour to support the United Arab Emirates’ strategic transport plans.”

The passenger trains will be equipped with the latest cutting-edge technologies that suit the topography and climate of the UAE, which is key for ensuring high performance, efficiency, and reliability. The trains will provide various amenities, entertainment, and comfortable seating at high levels of security, efficiency, and quality, allowing passengers to enjoy exceptional journeys.