

*Test of new European signalling system***Hector Rail leasing locomotive to Swedish Rail Administration for testing on Bothnia Line**

Hector Rail and the Swedish Rail Administration have signed an agreement for leasing of a locomotive to the Swedish Rail Administration. The locomotive is being leased to the Swedish Rail Administration for testing on the Bothnia Line. The Bothnia Line is the first railway in Sweden to be equipped with the new European traffic control system ERTMS. Hector Rail is purchasing an additional 142-locomotive from ÖBB Traktion (the Austrian railway) for this purpose. With this purchase, Hector Rail will have nine locomotives of this type at its disposal.

The new European traffic control system ERTMS (European Rail Traffic Management System) can be configured on three levels. Level 2 is being installed on the Bothnia Line, which among other things entails that there are no fixed signals along the tracks. All signalling information is presented for locomotive drivers on a display in the driver's compartment. One purpose of this system is that it will eventually permit a single common system throughout Europe and make cross border traffic easier.

Before ERTMS is put into service on the Bothnia Line, the Swedish Rail Administration is planning extensive test runs. This is why the locomotive is being leased from Hector Rail. The locomotive being purchased from ÖBB Traktion will have the ERTMS system installed prior to delivery, without the locomotive having ever been equipped with a standard Swedish signalling system (ATC).

“We’re always interested in being at the leading edge of railway technology developments,” says Mats Nyblom, the managing director of Hector Rail AB. “With this agreement, we have the opportunity to gain practical experience of the new ERTMS system.”

This will be Hector Rail’s ninth 142-locomotive from Austria. The locomotive fleet now consists of 26 mainline locomotives. This includes six equipped for running directly from Sweden down to Germany. Another two identically equipped locomotives will be delivered before the end of the year.

Hector Rail AB is an independent line-haul provider, active in Scandinavia and Germany. Independent means that Hector Rail is not associated with any state or other transport entity. Through independence and focus on customers’ needs, and with its own railway technology expertise, Hector Rail offers its customers concrete added value. Forwarding agents, major goods owners and other railway companies make up the most important customer groups. Hector Rail’s currently operates about 10,000 train-kilometres each day.

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