



Transnet Taking a Global Lead in Defining the Future of Heavy Haul Railways

[Johannesburg; 10 June 2019] Transnet SOC Ltd is steaming ahead with its vision of being part of the top 5 railway companies in the world.

A team of 25 engineers and operations executives led by the Transnet's Chairperson Dr. Popo Molefe, will fly the South African flag high at International Heavy Haul Association (IHHA) Conference in Norway this week.

The conference, themed "Heavy Haul 4.0 – Achieving Breakthrough Performance Levels", starts today (Monday) 10 June till 14 June 2019 and will be attended by more than 500 global rail experts and professionals. The Transnet team under the leadership of IHHA's global chairman Mr. Brian Monakali, will be among the 180 technical experts to present papers on technological advancement on the competitiveness of heavy haul rail operations. Monakali is also a General Manger at Transnet Freight Rail, a division of Transnet.

Transnet Chairperson Dr. Popo Molefe said: "Despite recent challenges at Transnet related to malfeasance, the organization remains a solid business, which is an anchor to our country's economy. The IHHA Conference in Norway, is a great opportunity for Transnet and South Africa to showcase local technical and technology advancements to the global community. It is also an opportunity for us to learn the latest best practices from our global counterparts."

South African Context

The technical papers will also reflect on the competitiveness of the South African heavy haul rail operations operated by Transnet, a state-owned company.

The platform will provide these experts an opportunity to share and exchange knowledge and experience with other country-members of IHHA such as Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, India, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the US.

As one of the key players, Transnet, which operates more than 30 000 kilometres of rail network across the country, holds a record of the longest production train in the world. The four-kilometres production train which runs from the Sishen in the Northern Cape to Saldanha, Western Cape, transports Iron Ore by using 342 wagons.

Transnet has recently broken its own record by testing a 375-wagon manganese train representing a production train with the highest number of wagons in the world. The successful testing of the 375-wagon train is informed by an increase in the production of manganese in

South Africa. Transnet's share of manganese grew from 9.6 million tons in 2016/17 to 14.01 million tons in 2018/19.

"As Transnet we remain inspired to be part of the global rail community and we are excited to share our knowledge on the matter. Our participation, especially on the level of chairmanship illustrates that the international rail community recognizes Transnet's strengths on rail operations," said Monakali.

Now that the association has developed a common global vision for 2030, the next step would be to move towards implementation, including identifying areas of strategic research to be undertaken at various railway organisations, research institutions and universities in different countries, added Monakali.

For more information on the Norway IHHA Conference of 10-14 June 2019, please visit www.ihha2019.com

Issued on behalf of Transnet SOC Ltd

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About Transnet

Transnet is wholly owned by the Government of the Republic of South Africa. The company is uniquely positioned to provide integrated, seamless transport solutions for its customers in the bulk and manufacturing sectors. This is part of its drive to improve the efficiency and competitiveness of the South African economy.

Transnet has five operating divisions:

Transnet Freight Rail transports bulk and containerised freight along 30 400 kilometres of which 1 500 kilometres comprises heavy haul lines for export coal and export iron ore.

Transnet Advanced Manufacturing, also known as Transnet Engineering manufactures and maintains rolling stock. It consists of eight product-focused business units which provide services ranging from rolling stock refurbishment, conversion and upgrades, to the manufacturing of locomotives, coaches and wagons.

Transnet National Ports Authority is responsible for the safe, efficient and effective functioning of the national ports system, which it manages in a landlord capacity. The National Ports Authority is also a provider of port infrastructure and marine services at all commercial ports in South Africa.

Transnet Port Terminals owns and operates 16 cargo terminal operations situated at seven South African ports. It provides cargo-handling services for the container, bulk, automotive and break-bulk sectors.

Transnet Pipelines transports a range of petroleum products and gas through 3 000 kilometres of underground pipelines, which traverse five provinces, thereby ensuring the security of supply of petroleum products to the inland market, especially Gauteng. Transnet Pipelines is gearing itself for full commissioning of the new Multi-Product Pipeline.

Specialist units:

Transnet Capital Projects manages our largest capital projects;

Transnet Foundation is responsible for executing our Corporate Social Investment initiatives.

Transnet Property manages our property portfolio.