

Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union

MEDIA RELEASE

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'World's Shonkiest Rail Manufacturer' to Build NSW Trains

The Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union (AMWU) has described the choice of Hyundai Rotem to build NSW's next intercity train fleet as 'short-sighted' and 'negligent' as reports surface of the company's history of producing defective trains.

The low-cost Korean manufacturer has experienced a number of public scandals across three continents; most notably in the United States where a fleet of 120 trains were abruptly removed from service because of "significant structural defects" caused by improper welding.

Rotem's controversies include

- In July 2016, the South East Pennsylvania Transport Authority (SEPTA) was forced to remove an entire fleet of Hyundai Rotem-built trains from service because of 'significant structural defects' caused by improper welding
- In 2015, Hyundai Rotem's improper safety standards were implicated in the Oxnard train derailment in California in which 26 people were injured and one train engineer died.
- In 2014, Hyundai Rotem was forced to pay compensation to KoRail, South Korea's national railroad operator, for financial damage caused by defective trains

Hyundai Rotem won the contract to build the next intercity train fleet as part of an international consortium led by UGL. The contract is worth \$2.9 billion and involves the

"The people of NSW are being sold a lemon," said NSW AMWU Secretary Tim Ayres.

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