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Mr. Zhou Qinghe, the president of CSR ZELC, attend the E-loco delivery ceremony of SANEL project at Pretoria, South Africa

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The 1st batch of Chinese E-loco landed at Africa

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The 1st batch of Chinese E-loco landed at Africa! The executive capital, Pretoria is a sunny day at November.18, 2013. People sing and dance joyously to welcome two encouraging Chinese guests in Pyramid Depot on the locomotive delivery ceremony, which nearby Pretoria around local time 11:00AM. They are two dual-voltage general freight electric locomotives which were both designed and manufactured by CSR Zhuzhou Electronic Locomotives Co., Ltd (short for ZELC).

Mr. Mafika. Mkwanazi (the chairman of the Board of directors of Transnet), Mr. Brian. Molefe (the CEO of Transnet), Mr. Siyabonga. Gama (the CEO of Transnet Freight Rail), Mr. Richard .Vallihu (the CEO of Transnet Engineering), Mr. Rong Yansong (the counselor of Economic & Commercial Counselor's office of P.R.C in ZA), Mr. Zhou Qinghe (Chairman and GM of CSR ZELC), Mr. He Enguang (Deputy GM of CSR ZELC), Mr. Wang Guojun (GM of CSR South African Ltd. Co.) and so on all attended this locomotive delivery ceremony.

Mr. Zhou Qinghe, Mr. Mafika. Mkwanazi, Mr. Brian. Molefe, Mr. Siyabonga. Gama and Mr. Richard. Vallihu cut the ribbon for the delivered locomotives together.

Mr. Zhou Qinghe stated during the speech, "ZELC been awarded the 95 E-locos project represent the trust and confidence from South Africa government and Transnet Group to ZELC. We appreciate and dedicated to made one type of more safe/more reliable /more advanced electric locomotive during the project execution. Under careful planning and organization. ZELC designed and

manufactured the first locomotive in Zhuzhou, China only in 12 months after the signing of the contract. It made record in world locomotive industry. Transnet Group transferred locomotives from Durban Port to Pyramid depot just in 18 hours via efficient and scientific railway scheduling. And within half a day, the locomotives were start to run. All of these sincerely and closely cooperation made impossibility is nothing.

It is reported, the Mandela's Foundation is willing to named these 95 units of new locomotives after "Mandela" so to pay honor to the ex-president Mr. Nelson Mandela, who promote the progress of the civilization.

Mr. Zhou Qinghe said, this type of locomotives is exactly the "Mandela" for both South African and Chinese in our mind so to show respect to Mr. Mandela, whom the leader of promote the civilization process. The South Africa administration is keep increasing the railway infrastructure investments. As the top level representative of Chinese railway transportation equipment industry, CSR ZELC is willing to start from this 95 locos SA project, and conduct wider and deeper cooperation with South African friends. We endeavor to drive South Africa's railway enterprise to more brilliant achievements.

Mr. Brian Molefe, the president of Transnet Group said the locomotives' arrival deepen the cooperation between China and South Africa once again. If the economy of South Africa would like to keep sustaining, rapid and healthy development, it must realize the industrialization process first. Then China is a commendable sample. This two parties' cooperation not only propel the railway business of South Africa, but also motivate South Africans to build and export their own brand in the long term.

Mr. Siyabonga Gama, the CEO of Transnet Freight Rail said during the speech, it is unprecedented that CSR ZELC design and manufactured the prototype locomotive in only 12 months which totally break the international convention of 18 months to 24 months. The 20E electronic locomotives produced by CSR ZELC mainly will apply to the manganese ore transportation route, the transportation capability will elevate from 7M tons to 16M tons in the next 6 years.

Mr. Gehret, a 46 years old quality inspector in Train Design & Technology Dept. of Transnet Group, become the first local driver who will drive the Chinese made E-loco in South Africa. He told our correspondent excitedly that he is proud of being the first person go down in history. With 22-year train driving experiences, he have drove locomotive from U.S.A, Japan and other countries. The new locomotives from China can be easily operated and practical, meanwhile possess lot of new technology. He will take responsibilities to train more South Africa local driver in the future.

Mr. Rong Yansong, the counselor of Economic and Commercial Counselor's office of P.R.C in ZA said, ZELC completed locomotive production and delivered to South Africa customer timely shows the performance capabilities and good credit of Chinese enterprises. He believe ZELC's development in South Africa will create more job opportunities, upgrade the transportation equipment manufacture industry level, and hope the cooperation between TFR & ZELC can play a nice demonstration role in two countries' corporate combinations.

Mr. Siyabonga Gama, CEO of Transnet freight rail division said these locomotives not only significantly elevate South Africa's freight efficiency, but also the electricity efficiency. This means a lot to South Africa that in power shortage. In addition, the southern Africa utilized by the integrated railway system that railway from Durban port cross Zimbabwe, Zambia and connect the democratic republic of Congo, enhanced the efficiency. The railway system of South Africa is a milestone to southern Africa's import & export trade business.

According to information, the volume of railway freight in South Africa is 210M Tons at last year, and the railway operating mileage exceed 30,000KM which contains nearly one half are electronic railways. However more than 50% electronic locomotives have over 35 years average service life, the product upgrade market is huge. The South Africa side is invite bidding at 2013 which involved 599 units of E-loco and 465 units of diesel locomotives.

The Engineering News of South Africa, Business Daily, South African Broadcasting Cooperation and other medias, the correspondents from the Xinhua News Agency, People's daily, CCTV all got to the ceremony and reported the Chinese E-loco landed at South Africa for the first time.