



MEDIA RELEASE

TransNamib Champions Sustainable Rail and Hydrogen Future

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Windhoek, 1 April 2026 – TransNamib Holdings Limited has received Board approval to commence a six-month trial of a prototype dual-fuel locomotive powered by hydrogen and diesel, in partnership with CMB.TECH.

This pioneering pilot project is to be conducted over approximately 50 round trips along the Walvis Bay–Windhoek corridor, this project forms part of TransNamib’s commitment to decarbonisation and the adoption of advanced rail technologies.

The trial will be evaluated against a comprehensive performance matrix, including fuel consumption, reliability, operational efficiency, maintenance requirements, and overall cost-effectiveness within Namibia’s operating environment. A decision on whether to expand the project will be made following the full six-month evaluation period, said Desmond Van Jaarsveld, TransNamib Chief Executive Officer.

During the trial, TransNamib will also assess safety protocols, staff training, and operational procedures related to hydrogen storage, handling, and refuelling. All hydrogen-related infrastructure and technical components will be managed by CMB.TECH, while TransNamib builds internal capacity and ensures compliance with rail safety standards.

TransNamib’s current fleet primarily operates on conventional diesel locomotives. However, subject to the outcome of the trial, the company may consider transitioning portions of its fleet to dual-fuel technology.

The long-term viability of hydrogen-powered rail operations in Namibia will depend on economic factors, particularly the cost and availability of hydrogen and ultimate performance in Namibia’s challenging climatic conditions. TransNamib will continue to provide updates to its Board and the relevant line Ministry as the trial progresses, said Van Jaarsveld.

This initiative positions TransNamib at the forefront of sustainable rail innovation and supports Namibia’s broader ambitions in the green hydrogen sector.

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About TransNamib

TransNamib is Namibia's national rail operator, responsible for managing and operating the country's rail network. The organization provides freight and passenger rail services, playing a vital role in supporting Namibia's transport infrastructure, economic development, and regional connectivity.

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