

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Westcode secures further traction refurbishment business



Westcode Semiconductors Limited (An IXYS company) is awarded a development contract to upgrade the traction package of the Class 8E locomotives by Spoornet (RSA railways). The proposed design uses Westcode's state of the art press-pack IGBT technology to replace the fast thyristor based converters.

The contract is for the design, development and realisation of an upgrade package for the DC propulsion chopper system. This includes replacing existing obsolete reverse conducting thyristor technology with Westcode's state of the art press-pack IGBT's, gate drivers and associated power electronics. The upgrade package will retrofit into the existing power cubicle and interface directly to the existing controls and cooling system with the minimum of modifications. The system operates directly from the 3kVDC catenary and will facilitate an increase of load power from 750kW to 1MW. There are currently 99 of the Siemens BBC built locos in service requiring this upgrade.

Steve Ware, Director and General Manager of Westcode, commented "This is a significant contract award for Westcode as we continue our push into the rail sector and comes on the back of recent success with similar projects in Europe. Our efforts to re-position ourselves in this key market are clearly beginning to paying dividends"

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