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Internal memo

From	Heath Harnden
Department	Rail division
To	All Rail division employees
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Rio Tinto approves introduction of autonomous train operations

The Rio Tinto Board has approved the investment of US\$518 million to introduce autonomous train operations – called AutoHaul - across our integrated Pilbara rail network, supporting our proposed expansion to 353 million tonnes per annum in 2015.

Formerly known as ATO (Autonomous Train Operations), AutoHaul will enable driverless trains to carry iron ore from our Pilbara mines to Dampier and Cape Lambert and is a key component of our Pilbara expansion programme.

Using an innovative technology in line with our Mine of the Future vision, this will be the first long-distance heavy-haul system of its kind in the world and will place us at the forefront of technological advances.

The approval for the AutoHaul project is an exciting step that we've been working towards for a long time.

The investment from the board is sizeable and we've got a big job ahead of us to successfully implement the technology. This is a long term project with a lot of work still to be done, however we are confident that we can meet the challenges and have AutoHaul successfully installed in parts of the network by late 2014.

Operationally this is a very good thing and is a key next step in the evolution of our railway. The implementation of AutoHaul will create and provide many new and exciting opportunities for all our employees. In time, as we approach late 2014, the traditional role of mainline train drivers will change but as we continue to develop the technology, we are confident that all of our team members will continue to have exciting and rewarding opportunities to be a part of our expanding business.

Whilst there are robust plans for AutoHaul, we do not have all the answers on how this project will ultimately be implemented and look forward to working with each of you to help shape this advancement of our division over the next few years. A consultative committee comprising employees from across our division will be formed, with nominations called for by the end of quarter one.

I understand you may have some questions surrounding the introduction of AutoHaul. Please find attached a fact sheet on the AutoHaul programme and what the next steps are towards implementation. I encourage each of you to read this and discuss any queries with your leader or Human Resources representative. Information sessions will also be held over coming weeks and I hope you attend a session to hear more about the project.

We look forward to actively working with all of you on this very exciting advancement in our division.



Heath Harnden
General manager
Railways division