

Rear tankers with additional electrical heating.



## Strengthening ties

FOLLOWING ON FROM ITS ORDER OF SIX TIEMAN TANKERS LATE LAST YEAR, DOWNER EDI HAS STRENGTHENED ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MANUFACTURER EVEN FURTHER WITH ITS LATEST ORDER OF TWO BITUMEN POCKET ROAD TRAIN COMBINATIONS FOR WA.

The new tankers, received in late March, have been put to work transporting bitumen to asphalt and re-seal roads throughout Western Australia. Downer EDI is a leading provider of engineering and infrastructure management services, employing over 21,000 people across more than 40 countries. To cater to its bitumen operations, the company operates a fleet of approximately 60 bitumen tankers, many of which are based in the country's east. The new tankers that were purchased for use in the west coast will be used to service the company's growing needs in Western Australia. "There is only a small in house fleet dedicated to bitumen cartage in WA at the moment," explains Perth Operations Manager, Greg Geier, "but we are currently growing the volume. We operate a Tieman B-double as well as the two pocket road trains, yet we are looking to grow in the road construction area to suit the company's expansion plans, which are quite ambitious."

Downer EDI's WA bitumen division is

situated in Perth, but is used to service the entire state as the company continues to extend the state's service network. Greg says that the new tankers are operating well. These units have already been put to the ultimate test, making a 1600km trip to Karratha on several occasions.

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"We have an asphalt plant running up there at the moment, and we've been delivering bitumen from the refinery in Perth's north to Karratha. The heat retention we have experienced from the Tieman equipment is fantastic, we've had no dramas whatsoever, and the drivers like how easy they are to operate. "Some of the early bitumen tankers were

hard to operate but the Tieman tankers are the latest and greatest on the market, and the technology incorporated into these units has been notably improved." The new order includes two 29,150 litre lead insulated bitumen tankers and two 30,400 rear tankers, each of which is constructed of corrosion resistant stainless

steel. Chassis rail sections have been mounted onto the rings of the tankers rather than the barrels so that stresses are dissipated through the rings and not the tanker's shell for added structural strength. In each tanker, the load is heated via a 1,000,000 Btu Kleenheat liquid withdrawal vapourising propane gas burner which is fitted to the U-shaped burner tubes that



Downer EDI Perth Operations Manager, Greg Geier.

run along the length of the tankers. Insulation is provided by a 75mm grade 450 Rockwool blanket which is also featured on the coaming rails and chassis rail areas. Around the outside of the rings, insulation cork has been used to minimise the heat transfer from the barrel to the cladding. Two of the new tankers have also been fitted with unique electric heaters designed for specialised polymers. "These are the type of road trains that can



be used in WA but are not used anywhere else in Australia," says Greg. "It's a short road train so it can run on any B-double route. It's a rugged construction based on BPW suspension, which is a good, hardy suspension well suited to WA applications. This has proven itself over time." He continues, "I've been around in the industry for over 15 years, and I know that Tieman produces a fantastic product – and this stretches through to the after sales

service. The finish is great, and you can see that the company puts a lot of effort into what they do, listening to their customers in order to continually improve their product. I'm glad Downer have chosen Tieman, because it is such a good quality product. "A good trailer is characterised by the finish, the way it operates, the after sales service, and when its comes to a bitumen tanker, how many years of service you can get out of it. They have to be easy to use, finished well, and 'built to last' – a message that is incorporated into the company's corporate motto. Most importantly, though, they need to provide superior heat retention. We take a lot of pride in an immaculate fleet, it has to sparkle all the time." Tieman has incorporated new design safety features into the tankers with the hinged ladder actuation of the top handrails, extra wide top walkways and the ability to operate the three way valve from ground level. With every Tieman tanker comes a comprehensive owner's spare parts manual. In WA, Tieman offers local support through the services of its WA state manager Calvin Ridley who has over 20 years of tanker experience.



Wide walkway, hinged ladder actuates top handrails, three way valve operated from ground level.

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