

Success Story

Metro Trains (MTM) - Successful Stony Point line upgrade in Melbourne

On 30 March 2015, MTM suspended Stony Point line services indefinitely following a series of incidents where some of the 19 level crossings were not operating correctly.

Keeping the rail line in operation has always been a priority, however, the line was closed while MTM worked to implement a permanent solution to ensure the safe movement of trains and to prevent ongoing disruptions to services. Prior to the works, level crossings on this line were activated by a conventional train detection system relying on the wheel-to-rail interface.



Stony Point line in Southern Melbourne



Installed detection point at Stony Point line

MTM identified the way to fix the fault was to install axle counters, which do not rely on a wheel-to-rail interface to detect a train.

Following a successful trial and the confidence that all of the equipment could be delivered in time, Thales worked as a key supplier to MTM for the supply, design, training and testing/commissioning of the Thales Az LM Axle Counter Train Detection Solution. Post development, and in only three months, the project team successfully installed the new axle counter system on all level crossings to re-open the Stony Point line on 30 June 2015.

The Stony Point line customers are back on board their treasured train service, thanks to the very close cooperation between MTM and Thales. Calvin Li, the MTM Project Manager, said the Thales team contributed to the project's success:

"Excellent collaboration meant that our stringent delivery requirements could be achieved, the Thales team even worked overnight to keep to the tight programme. A job well done by Tamas Nagy, Slava Petrov, Cheng Ni, Mark Brindley and the Thales Axle Counter support team in Germany."

With confidence in the team and a highly reliable and technically advanced train detection solution, MTM awarded Thales three larger scale projects, which are currently being deployed on the Melbourne rail network.

Thales Transportation in Australia

Thales has already been supporting all Axle Counter activities in Australia with a qualified team for more than 5 years. Understanding our customer needs combined with country specific experience is key to establishing a trusted long-term partnership.

Thales looks forward to supporting all customers in Australia with outstanding products and services over the next decades to help achiev their targets and provide a safe and reliable train service. The team provides installation, commissioning, design, customer application and training with experienced and certified employees.