

How greener alternatives, robust battery use can keep the rail industry on track

According to Murray Long, managing director of First National Battery, reliable and well-maintained infrastructure is needed for passenger and freight trains to reach their destinations safely. A key part of this infrastructure includes reliable and resilient railway batteries that power trains and rail systems.



Image source: [Gallo/Getty](#)

President Ramaphosa previously stated that rail transport is vital in reviving the country's economy. Industry stakeholders hold the same view, reiterating that improving the rail network can generate thousands of jobs and boost the economy.



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Developing and distributing train lighting batteries and diesel starter batteries which are low maintenance and long-lasting should feature a reliable plate design which is essential to ensure maximum safety at signalling stations, says Long, about manufacturer's range of railway batteries.

"Railway signalling stations need to operate even during a surge or power failure and need batteries to direct trains by shifting tracks or interlocking safety systems."

Passenger trains

For many South African passengers, trains can be cost-effective and a less stressful way of travelling long-distance, with luxuries such as lighting and hot running water. For these amenities to function correctly at all times, robust batteries with extended life are required.

Rail is green

As more industries take note of their carbon footprint, rail transport is becoming more important as a green alternative. Rail transport is cleaner and reduces road traffic. "What's great about lead-acid batteries we develop for rail transport, is that

95% of the battery is recycled to produce new batteries," adds Long.

It may be a challenging time for South Africa's rail industry, but there is space for growth and success with the support of stakeholders.

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