

CAF will supply Amtrak coaches

USA: Amtrak has awarded CAF USA a \$298.1m contract to supply 130 single-deck vehicles for use on long-distance routes in the east of the country, where clearances are insufficient for double-deck Superliner stock. The 25 sleeping cars, 25 dining cars, 55 baggage cars and 25 baggage/staff cars will be delivered over five years from October 2012.

The first year of the contract will be paid for with \$29.8m from revenue. Amtrak will seek to fund subsequent years through 'loans or direct Congressional appropriations.' Amtrak plans to replace its entire locomotive and coach fleet over 30 years, seeking modern vehicles with power points, cycle racks and more

efficient heating and air-conditioning to replace stock dating back to the 1950s.

Alstom, Bombardier and Kawasaki had also bid for the contract. CAF USA has not previously built main line passenger stock but it will receive assistance from its Spanish parent. The stainless steel shells will be manufactured and final assembly undertaken at the CAF plant in Elmira Heights, New York, which has previously built light rail and metro cars.

'As we move to consolidate our presence in the US, we view this contract as merely the first in what we hope will be many opportunities we will have to partner with Amtrak,' said CAF USA Vice-President Virginia Verdeja. 