

Kenya Railways Plans to Upgrade Nairobi Rail Network (Update1)

By Eric Ombok - April 15, 2009 02:37 EDT

April 15 (Bloomberg) -- [Kenya Railways Corp.](#), the state- owned rail operator, will today sign an agreement to improve the commuter-rail network in the capital Nairobi in an effort to boost passenger volumes fivefold.

Kenya Railways will sign an agreement with a group that includes the World Bank, the U.K., Netherlands, Ireland and Austria, the rail operator said in a statement published in the Nairobi-based [Daily Nation](#) newspaper today.

The company and the group, known as Infraco, will design and develop the project and identify funders and operators for the network within 24 months, Kenya Railways said. The commuter train service will start running 18 months thereafter, it added.

The project, which includes 20 new and faster trains than those currently operating in the city, will increase daily passenger volumes to 100,000 from 19,000, Kenya Railways said.

To contact the reporter on this story: [Eric Ombok](#) in Nairobi at eombok@bloomberg.net

To contact the editor responsible for this story: Antony Sguazzin at asguazzin@bloomberg.net

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aYxgMbhzlqA4&refer=africa>