

Hawker Siddeley's Brush companies have been hitting the headlines in recent months. As well as celebrating a century of industry at their Loughborough site they have received a letter of commendation from British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and a series of multi-million pound contracts spanning the globe.

One down ... now 99 to go



Driver in the driving seat: Colin Driver (centre) takes delivery of the first Class 60 loco.

THE first Brush Electrical Machines Class 60 freight locomotive was delivered to British Rail on June 30. The loco is the first of 100 on order in a £120m deal with British Rail.

Locomotive number 60001 was handed over by Bill Petrie, BEM's managing director, to Colin Driver, director freight, British Railways Board, at a ceremony at BEM's works in Loughborough.

"One down, 99 to go," said Bill Petrie in his hand-over speech. He paid tribute to the hard work BEM's employees had put into the loco which was designed and built in only 13½ months from receipt of order. "Three shifts, 24 hours a day — it's a tremendous effort," he said.

Massive

Brush Electrical Machines won the massive contract in 1988. The company has contracted to supply the entire order to British Rail over the next 2½ years to operate on BR's heavy freight services. "This is the start of a major rolling stock investment," said Colin Driver.

A number of other Hawker Siddeley companies have been involved in supplying equipment for the Class 60. These include Mirrlees Blackstone who supplied the engine, Westinghouse Brake and Signal who supplied the brake system, and Insumat who designed and manufactured the silencers.

Brush Electrical Machines has received another major order, for 19 bo-bo diesel electric shunting locomotives from Office National Des Chemins De Fer (ONCF) of Morocco (Moroccan National Railways). The order is valued at £17.5 million.

London Underground Ltd has announced that a contract has been awarded to BREL Ltd to build 85 trains for the Central Line. The specified electrical propulsion equipment worth around £100m is to be supplied by Brush Electrical Machines and ABB (Asea Brown Boveri of Switzerland) operating in a consortium. The two companies obtained the order against strong commercial opposition from the UK and Japan.