



Truck loads of green

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Body

Fortescue chairman Andrew Forrest has challenged the mining sector to follow his company's lead after signing a "jaw-dropping" \$US2.8bn (\$4.06bn) equipment deal with German company Liebherr, which will convert two-thirds of the company's mining fleet to zero-emissions battery technology over the next couple of years.

Core to the deal is **Fortescue**-developed fast-charging technology, which robotically deploys a 6MW charger that can charge a truck in 30 minutes, for six hours of run time.

Dr Forrest said the deal was perhaps the largest single mining equipment deal in Australian mining history.

"We invite all companies in the mining, heavy industry and haulage sectors to join us," he said. "The solutions are there, and the missing ingredient is leadership. The time of others persuading you that greenwashing is a better return to shareholders and your community is over." Dr Forrest said the size of the deal was "jaw-dropping".

"It really does point the way for the future of the mining industry going zero emissions, and it points the way for heavy industry running out of excuses," he said. "If these two companies are issuing their largest agreements ever, and it's 100 per cent zero emissions, then that tells you which way heavy industry, particularly the mining industry, is going.

"This is where the smart end of town is going. This is where we're leading, and we're doing it for shareholders." Under the deal with Liebherr, **Fortescue** will purchase 360 autonomous, battery-electric trucks, 55 electric excavators and 60 battery-powered dozers.

The deal is an expansion of an original agreement struck between the two companies in 2022, for 120 haul trucks.

Fortescue developed the battery technology to be used in the haul trucks and jointly developed the Automated Haulage Solution, with the trucks employing a robotic charging system that will avoid issues such as having to queue machines for charging, **Fortescue** said.

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"All of the trucks in this fleet will ultimately be equipped with a zero-emission battery power system developed by **Fortescue** Zero and the jointly developed Autonomous Haulage Solution - both of which were built to be scalable so they can be retrofitted onto existing Liebherr haul trucks," **Fortescue** said.

The new T 264 trucks will begin onsite validation at **Fortescue**'s Pilbara operations at the end of 2025, the company said.

"The approximately 360-strong T 264 truck fleet has already begun arriving to **Fortescue**'s Western Australian operations, with the first trucks delivered to **Fortescue**'s Eliwana mine in October 2023," the company said. "The initial 240-tonne capacity trucks will be converted to zero-emission powertrains before 2030."

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