

## **Connex Commitment to Victorian Transport Industry**

The involvement of Connex in organising this rail industry conference was another demonstration of the Company's commitment to the Victorian transport industry, Connex world-wide Chief Executive Officer, Mr Stéphane Richard, said.

Mr Richard was opening the joint Connex, Victoria University conference, Driving Your Business Forward in Melbourne this morning.

The conference has been developed and organised for those in management, human resources and training in the rail industry.

"Initiatives such as this joint venture are key to the development and maintenance of high quality safety and customer service skills," Mr Richard said.

"Continued investment in the skills of our staff is central to Connex's strategy of improving service delivery.

"Training as part of a broader program of social initiatives combined with an innovative approach to environmental management and sound business skills will ensure Connex maintains a sustainable business.

"The joint venture between Connex and Victoria University is an exciting development. It is a model designed to work within the Australian training framework, yet complement existing Vivendi Environnement colleges in France and England.

"Such training centres demonstrate our long-term commitment to our group of employees and clients."

Mr Richard said Connex has been in Melbourne since August 1999 and has made significant improvements in that short period of time.

"Since taking over the franchise, we have added services, improved punctuality and dramatically reduced cancellations. Our customers are telling us that they appreciate these enhancements.

"Connex is facilitating more than \$400 million of investment including refurbished and new rolling stock and other infrastructure.

"We are committed to our Melbourne franchise and we are working with the Victorian Government to enhance the public transport system.

"The process is a complex and difficult one, but we are confident that we can achieve an outcome that is workable for all of us," added Mr Richard.