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Sealed and delivered

KUCHING: Sarawak Metro Sdn Bhd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (SEDC), has achieved a new milestone with the award of the Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS) Project's System Package 1 contract.

The System Package 1 contract, valued at RM1.425 billion, involves the supply of the rolling stock, which is the hydrogen-powered ART vehicles, depot equipment and maintenance vehicles (DEMV), signaling and control system (S&CS) and the automatic platform gate (APG).

Sarawak Metro handed over the Letter of Award (LOA) for the contract to EPR Mobilus GR JV Sdn Bhd at a ceremony held on July 18, and witnessed by Minister of Transport Sarawak Datuk Seri Lee Kim Shin, who represented the Premier Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg.

For the System Package 1 contract, EPR Mobilus GR JV Sdn Bhd – a joint venture between EPR (Kuching) Sdn Bhd, Mobilus Sdn Bhd and Global Rail Sdn Bhd – are working with CRRC Zhuzhou Institute Company Limited and CIMC-Hexagon Hydrogen Energy Systems Limited (suppliers of the hydrogen-powered ART vehicles); Thales (supplier of the signalling and control system); Fangda Innotech Company Limited (supplier of the automatic platform gate); and DOM Industries (M) Sdn Bhd and CRRC Zhuzhou Institute Company Limited (supplier of the depot equipment and maintenance vehicles).

Sarawak Metro's chief executive officer (technologist) Mazli Mustaffa presented the LOA to EPR Mobilus

GR JV Sdn Bhd's directors, Syahrir Iman Suib, Chan Chee Kian and Wilson Fan.

"With our aspiration of having a sustainable public transport solution that also tackles the issues of climate change, that is why we have with us these companies collaborating to bring us the world's first hydrogen fuel cell-powered Autonomous Rapid Transit (ART) system," said Abang Johari in his text speech read by Lee.

"This milestone achieved by Sarawak Metro, is also a very significant achievement for China, as the country of origin of the supplier of the ART system.

"I also see this as an opportunity to strengthen the already close bilateral economic relationship between Malaysia – through Sarawak – with China," he said.

He also highlighted that Sarawak is moving one step ahead as the ART propulsion system will be powered by hydrogen – in line with Sarawak's green hydrogen agenda and the development of Sarawak's hydrogen economy.

"Just as we are trailblazers in the development of our digital economy, we are trailblazers in the hydrogen economy. And the application of hydrogen to transform our public transport

system is a further testament to our commitment towards further improving the socio-economy of Sarawak," he said.

The Premier was pleased that the System Package 1 Contractor has also given its commitment to add value to the KUTS Project through Sarawak Metro's Socio-Economic Enhancement Development (SEED) Programme to develop the human capital and supply chain, towards ensuring the sustainability and long-term success of the ART operations.

"It is my sincere hope that through such initiatives, a new generation of young Sarawakians

will be able to gain new knowledge and skills to play a meaningful role in this new industry, namely a modern and green public transport sector.

"With the creation of a pool of skilled workforce in this sector, I am confident that in the future, these Sarawakians will not only contribute to the industry in Sarawak but they will also be sought after by public transport system developers and operators from cities all over the country and the region," he said.

Abang Johari also said that there were vast opportunities to tap into the regional market potential created by the adoption of the ART for the Kuching Urban Transportation System.

Also present was SEDC chairman Tan Sri Datuk Amar Abdul Aziz Husain.



MAZLI (second left) presents the Letter of Award to Syahrir Iman (third right), witnessed by Abdul Aziz (left) and Lee (third left). Also seen in the photograph are (from right) Fan and Chan.

ART to pass through Santubong Peninsula

KUCHING: The Sarawak government has recently approved Sarawak Metro Sdn Bhd's proposal for the Autonomous Rapid Transit (ART) alignment for Phase 1 of the Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS) Project, to include a new line towards the Santubong Peninsula.

Premier Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg said the new alignment took into consideration the long-term

potentials for the KUTS.

"Among other considerations, the alignment looks at the future development plans for the Santubong Peninsula and the great potential for growth for the area with the tourism and leisure sector as the main catalyst," he said during the presentation of the Letter of Award ceremony on Monday.

The Premier was represented by the Minister for Transport Datuk Seri Lee Kim Shin at the

event.

"And I am pleased to announce that although this new alignment will be about 20 kilometres longer than the one proposed earlier by Sarawak Metro, we have managed to keep the overall cost of the project to below RM6 billion, through Sarawak Metro's ongoing value engineering initiative.

"I know that Sarawak Metro also continues to plan for future ART routes for Greater Kuching

under the KUTS Project, as well as for other alignments that could potentially create significant socio-economic benefits for the people of Sarawak," he said.

At the same event, Sarawak Metro also exchanged Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) documents with Ibraco Bhd and Peranan Makmur Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of Naim Holdings Bhd, towards collaborations to develop ART

stations near their property developments, namely The NorthBank and Kuching Paragon, respectively.

Sarawak Metro's chief executive officer (technologist) Mazli Mustaffa represented the company at exchange the MoU documents, with Ibraco represented by its Group managing director Datuk Chew Chee Hian and Peranan Makmur represented by its director Datuk Abang Abdul Wahap Abang Julai.