

PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

8 March 2023

Hydrogen-powered ART vehicle ready for Proof-of-Concept exercise

ZHUZHOU, CHINA: The Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS) Project achieved another major milestone recently with the completion of the manufacturing and assembly of the prototype hydrogen-powered Autonomous Rapid Transit (ART) vehicle in Zhuzhou, China.

The ART vehicle is currently undergoing Stage 1 of the Proof-of-Concept (POC) exercise here until the middle of this month.

Minister for Transport Sarawak Dato Sri Lee Kim Shin was on hand to inspect the newly-completed prototype at the CRRC Zhuzhou Institute Co Ltd facility, on Monday (6 March).

He also took a ride for nearly an hour on the hydrogen vehicle with members of his delegation consisting of representatives from Ministry of Transport Sarawak, Sarawak Economic Development Corporation, and Sarawak Metro Sdn Bhd.

Also present were representatives from EPR Mobilus GR JV Sdn Bhd, the KUTS Project Phase 1 System Package 1 contractor responsible for the supply of the rolling stock (hydrogen-powered ART vehicles); depot equipment and maintenance vehicles; signaling and control systems; and the automatic platform gates.

In a briefing session with top executives of CRRC Zhuzhou Institute, which is the manufacturer of the ART vehicle, the Minister stressed on the importance of this project, not only for Sarawak but also for the Chinese company, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of CRRC Corporation Limited, the world's largest rolling stock manufacturer.

"This is a new and important project for us and for (CRRC Zhuzhou Institute) as it will be an opportunity to showcase the success of this technology outside of China.

"I believe you will be able to leverage on the success of the KUTS Project to show other countries the benefits of adopting this technology for their cities," he said.

Dato Sri Lee also emphasised the importance of the KUTS Project as a pioneer project for both Sarawak and CRRC Zhuzhou Institute outside of China and in a tropical environment, and as such he looked forward to further collaborations in the future.

"The KUTS Project will be CRRC's showroom in Sarawak and therefore all parties must do their very best to make the ART a success model for others.

"And I hope we can even make Sarawak as CRRC's centre for Southeast Asia to promote the ART technology and to set up facilities here in the future."

Following the initial stage of the POC exercise in China, Stage 2 of the POC exercise for this ART vehicle will involve testing it in Kuching by the third quarter of this year.

The prototype ART vehicle for this POC exercise measures 30.2 metres in length, 2.65 metres in width and 3.7 metres in height. It can reach speeds of up to 70 kilometres an hour and has a 241-passenger capacity with a revised seating layout.

Members of the Minister's delegation to China included Deputy Minister for Transport Sarawak Datuk Dr Jerip Susil, Ministry of Transport Sarawak Permanent Secretary Dato Ir. Alice Jawan Empaling, Sarawak Metro Chief Executive Officer Technologist Mazli Mustaffa and Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) Officer-in-Charge of Sarawak Metro Awang Nasfuddin Awang Hassan.

ENDS.

Photos and caption:



Photo: 1

Caption: Minister for Transport Sarawak Dato Sri Lee Kim Shin (centre) in a group photo in front of the prototype hydrogen-powered ART vehicle with (from left) Sarawak Metro Corporate Communication and SEED Programme Director Alexis Barieng, SEDC Officer-in-Charge of Sarawak Metro Awang Nasfuddin Awang Hassan, Ministry of Transport Sarawak Principal Assistant Secretary Julin Alen, Ministry of Transport Sarawak Permanent Secretary Dato Alice Jawan Empaling, Deputy Minister for Transport Sarawak Datuk Dr Jerip Susil, Sarawak Metro Chief Executive Officer Mazli Mustaffa, Sarawak Metro KUTS Project Director Zafrin Zakariah and Sarawak Metro Legal and Company Secretary Director Bibi Waheeda Arman Khan



Photo: 2

Caption: Minister for Transport Sarawak Dato Sri Lee Kim Shin (second right) in a group photo inside the prototype hydrogen-powered ART vehicle with (from left) Sarawak Metro KUTS Project Director Zafrin

Zakariah, Ministry of Transport Sarawak Principal Assistant Secretary Julin Alen, Ministry of Transport Sarawak Permanent Secretary Dato Alice Jawan Empaling, SEDC Officer-in-Charge of Sarawak Metro Awang Nasfuddin Awang Hassan, Deputy Minister for Transport Sarawak Datuk Dr Jerip Susil, Sarawak Metro Chief Executive Officer Mazli Mustaffa and Hunan CRRC Intelligent Transport Technology Co Ltd General Manager Peng Zhonghong



Photo: 3

Caption: Minister for Transport Sarawak Dato Sri Lee Kim Shin (centre) posing for photos on the prototype hydrogen-powered ART vehicle with Sarawak Metro Chief Executive Officer Mazli Mustaffa (right) and Hunan CRRC Intelligent Transport Technology Co Ltd General Manager Peng Zhonghong



Photo: 4A

Caption: The prototype hydrogen-powered ART vehicle currently undergoing Stage 1 of the Proof-of-Concept exercise in Zhuzhou, China



Photo: 4B

Caption: The prototype hydrogen-powered ART vehicle currently undergoing Stage 1 of the Proof-of-Concept exercise in Zhuzhou, China

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