

## For Immediate Release

Press Release

8 October 2024

### Sarawak Metro takes part in unveiling of CRRC's latest ART vehicle and hydrogen train

**KUCHING:** Sarawak Metro Sdn Bhd was recently given the honour of jointly unveiling the latest rolling stock from CRRC Corporation Limited, in conjunction with InnoTrans 2024 in Berlin, Germany.

The new rolling stock unveiled were CRRC's 'ART 2.0' and its 'Cinova H2 New Energy Intelligent Intercity Train'.

Sarawak Metro Chief Executive Officer, Ts. Mazli Mustaffa, who represented the organisation at the unveiling ceremony lauded CRRC's latest achievement, especially on the innovations introduced in its newest version of the ART vehicle.

"It was truly an honour to represent Sarawak Metro to be part of the ceremony to unveil the new rolling stock, particularly during an event as prestigious as InnoTrans, which is well known as the rail transport industry's largest trade fair.

"It was gratifying to see that CRRC's latest ART vehicle shares many design similarities with our hydrogen-powered ART vehicle, and no doubt the inspiration may have come from CRRC's work with our engineers when coming up with the final design for our ART for the Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS) project," said Mazli, who pointed out that when fully operational, the KUTS, which is a project owned by Ministry of Transport Sarawak, will have the largest hydrogen-powered ART fleet in the world.

According to CRRC, the ART, which is designed for medium-to-low passenger volumes, blends the benefits of trams and road-based vehicles, adapting to the needs of urban transportation.

As with the ART adopted for the KUTS project, the new ART employs rubber wheels and virtual tracks, eliminating the need for tracks and catenary.

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The design drastically slashes track construction and maintenance costs while significantly reducing carbon dioxide emission by an impressive 769 tons per kilometre.

Mazli added that he was pleased to see CRRC's commitment in developing hydrogen powered solutions for the railway industry with the introduction of the Cinova H2 – a hydrogen-powered trainset that operates seamlessly on non-electrified railways.

“It is a great motivation for us to see that CRRC, the world's largest rolling stock manufacturer, continues to innovate towards decarbonising the railway industry and looking at hydrogen as one of its zero-emission options.”

CRRC says the Cinova H2 can reach a top speed of 200 kilometres per hour, with a four-car formation carrying over 1,000 passengers.

It has a continuous running range of 1,200 kilometres at 160 km/h, consuming less than 0.3 grams of hydrogen per passenger per kilometre.

With an estimated annual operation of 300,000 kilometres, each train can cut down carbon dioxide emissions by about 730 tons annually.

Meanwhile, Sarawak Metro participated as an exhibitor at the recent InnoTrans 2024, which is organised every two years at the Messe Berlin exhibition centre.

Sarawak Metro's participation at InnoTrans 2024, was at the invitation of Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE), as part of MATRADE's trade delegation of exhibitors under its 'Astaka Malaysia' or Malaysian Pavilion.

This was also the first time that MATRADE had held such an event for the Malaysian rail transport industry at InnoTrans, and this maiden effort was through its collaboration with Malaysia Rail Industry Corporation (MARIC), of which Sarawak Metro is a member.

The organisers have acknowledged this year's event as “the largest and most international InnoTrans since it was founded in 1996.”

Some of the milestones for this year's InnoTrans included 2,940 exhibitors from 59 countries as well as record high of around 170,000 visitors from 133 countries.

In total, 42 exhibition halls were filled along with 133 vehicles and exhibits on the Outdoor Display and track area as well as 11 buses in the Bus Display.

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This year's event also witnessed 226 world debuts and more than 1,200 guests from all over the world at the official Opening Ceremony of InnoTrans 2024.

Ends

### **About Sarawak Metro and KUTS project:**

Sarawak Metro Sdn Bhd (Sarawak Metro), a wholly owned subsidiary of Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (SEDC), has been entrusted by the Sarawak Government to modernise public transport through the Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS) project.

Sarawak Metro is the implementer, operator and maintainer of the KUTS project.

The project is being developed in phases, and Phase 1 includes the development of three lines: the Blue Line from Rembus in Kota Samarahan to Hikmah Exchange in the city centre; the Red Line, from Kuching Sentral to Pending; and the Green Line, from Pending to Damai.

Construction of the first package for the Blue Line is expected to complete by the fourth quarter of 2025 and all three lines are scheduled to be fully completed by the end of 2027.

The backbone of the KUTS project is the introduction of the zero-emission Autonomous Rapid Transit (ART) hydrogen vehicles.

The ART vehicles will be operated on dedicated lanes, meaning they will not share the lane with other road users. The ART hydrogen vehicles will run on rubber tires, and hence the dedicated lanes will be trackless. The lanes will mostly be at-grade (road level) while certain sections of the alignment will be elevated.

The ART operation will be supported by a network of feeder buses, which will also consist of hydrogen-powered vehicles to offer the 'first mile and last mile' connectivity for commuters.

The move to use hydrogen is in line with the Sarawak Government's aspirations to advance the hydrogen economy and to decarbonise public transport in Sarawak.

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**Photos and Captions:**

Photo 1:



Mazli (2nd right) giving the thumbs up along with the President of CRRC Corporation Limited Ma Yunshuang (centre) and other CRRC executives in front of the recently unveiled ART 2.0

Photo 2:



Mazli (right) during the unveiling ceremony for the Cinova H2 and ART 2.0 with (from left) Managing Director of the China-German Joint Research and Development Center for Rail Transit Technologies, Professor Andreas Ulbricht, Science and Technology Minister-Counsellor of the Embassy of China in Germany, Chen Linhao, Chief Engineer and Director of the Equipment Supervision Department of the National Railway Administration of China, Tian Jun, President of CRRC Corporation Limited, Ma Yunshuang and Technical Adviser of National Railway Company of Argentina, Juan Lavalla

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Photo 3:



Mazli (right) during the unveiling ceremony for the Cinova H2 and ART 2.0 with (from left) Managing Director of the China-German Joint Research and Development Center for Rail Transit Technologies, Professor Andreas Ulbricht, Science and Technology Minister-Counsellor of the Embassy of China in Germany, Chen Linhao, Chief Engineer and Director of the Equipment Supervision Department of the National Railway Administration of China, Tian Jun, President of CRRC Corporation Limited, Ma Yunshuang and Technical Adviser of National Railway Company of Argentina, Juan Lavalla

Photo 4:



Mazli (right) during the unveiling ceremony for the Cinova H2 and ART 2.0 with (from left) Managing Director of the China-German Joint Research and Development Center for Rail Transit Technologies, Professor Andreas Ulbricht, Science and Technology Minister-Counsellor of the Embassy of China in Germany, Chen Linhao, Chief Engineer and Director of the Equipment Supervision Department of the National Railway Administration of China, Tian Jun, President of CRRC Corporation Limited, Ma Yunshuang and Technical Adviser of National Railway Company of Argentina, Juan Lavalla

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