

For Immediate Release

Press Release

5 October 2024

Sarawak Metro successfully completes live trial of LTE 4G Band 39 evaluation for its radio telecommunication system

KUCHING: Sarawak Metro Sdn Bhd recently had a successful live trial of its Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS) project's Autonomous Rapid Transit (ART) LTE 4G Radio Telecommunication System for the LTE Band 39 Evaluation.

The live trial was done in collaboration with its contractor for the KUTS Project's System Package 2 - the joint venture of DOM Industries (M) Sdn Bhd and China Railway Electric Engineering Group Malaysia Sdn Bhd (DOM-EEB JV).

Conducted on 1 - 3 October 2024 at a site along Jalan Datuk Mohammad Musa in Kota Samarahan, the live trial aimed to evaluate the LTE Band 39 communications spectrum from 1900 MHz to 1915 MHz for operational use.

This critical trial was conducted in support of Sarawak Metro's application for a 15 MHz allocation of the LTE Band 39 spectrum from the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC).

The live trial demonstrated that the operational signals in the 1900 MHz to 1915 MHz band would not cause any interference to the adjacent spectrum holders, namely Maxis, Umobile and CelcomDigi network.

The KUTS' Radio Telecommunication System (RTS) is based on the Future Railway Mobile Communication System (FRMCS) architecture and utilises the LTE Band 39 frequencies.

For media enquiries, please contact the Sarawak Metro Corporate Communication team :

Letitia Samuel, Media Senior Manager

+6(016) 800 4516

letitia.samuel@mysarawakmetro.com

www.mysarawakmetro.com



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The live trial was witnessed by representatives from MCMC from its Kuala Lumpur and Kuching offices, Sarawak Multimedia Authority (SMA) and Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) such as Maxis, Umobile and CelcomDigi.

Sarawak Metro's Chief Executive Officer, Ts. Mazli Mustaffa described this trial as a significant achievement as it will be yet another "first" for the Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS) project.

The other "first" includes being the first operator in Southeast Asia to adopt the use of hydrogen-powered public transport vehicles.

"The success of this trial brings us a step closer to implementing a highly reliable and efficient communication system for the KUTS project," said Mazli.

"Once we've obtained all the necessary approvals from the relevant agencies, KUTS is set to become the first public transport system in Southeast Asia to have a 4G LTE link on its ART system, ensuring world-class connectivity for public transport users in Kuching. This is a testament to our commitment to leveraging the latest technologies to enhance the efficiency, safety, and experience of our public transport system," he enthused.

The recent trial results indicated no interference was detected with any telco operators, confirming the suitability of LTE Band 39 for the KUTS ART system.

These findings will be incorporated into the formal spectrum application submitted to MCMC for approval, further advancing Sarawak Metro's efforts to deploy cutting-edge communication systems for the KUTS project.

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SARAWAK METRO SDN BHD (201801007738)
A Member of the SEDC Group of Companies

16-01A, Level 16, Gateway Kuching,
No. 9, Jalan Bukit Mata Kuching,
93100 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia.

Tel: (082) 524 222
Fax: (082) 524 224
E-mail: info@mysarawakmetro.com
Website: www.mysarawakmetro.com

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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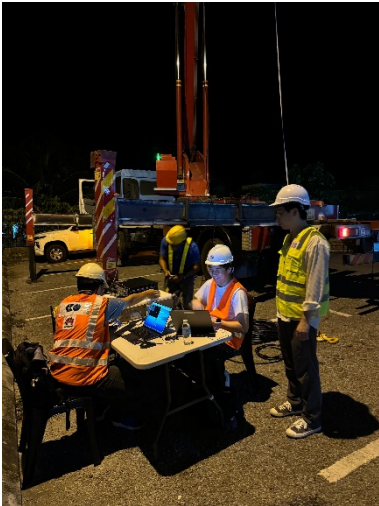
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Photos and Captions:



Engineers monitoring signal strength and performance during the KUTS ART LTE Band 39 trial to ensure seamless communication.



Live testing of the LTE Band 39 at a site along Jalan Datuk Mohammad Musa in Kota Samarahan, evaluating network performance for the future ART system.

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