

New Trains and Signalling System for the future Shatin to Central Link

MTR announces today (14 December 2012) the awards of two contracts to purchase 37 sets of new trains and a new signalling system for the future operation of the North South Corridor of the Shatin to Central Link (SCL), the extension of the current East Rail Line across the harbour to Wan Chai North and Admiralty, which is targeted for completion in 2020.

The contract for the new trains was awarded to Hyundai Rotem Company, also the supplier of trains for the Tseung Kwan O Line and the Tung Chung Line, at a price of approximately HK\$4 billion. The scope of the contract includes the design, supply, manufacture, testing and commissioning of 37 new 9-car trains, which are mainly designed and manufactured in South Korea. The first train is scheduled to be delivered to Hong Kong for testing and commissioning in 2015 and the whole fleet is to be in operation by 2020.

To tie in with the operation of the SCL North South Corridor, the signalling system of the East Rail Line will also be replaced with enhanced features. The contract to provide new signalling equipment was awarded to Siemens Limited, at a price of approximately HK\$850 million.

"The award of these two contracts to provide 37 new trains and an upgraded signalling system is an important step forward in our commitment to enhance train service along the East Rail Line and its future extension across the harbour. Passengers can not only enjoy better train service, but will also have easier access to various districts via a more sophisticated railway network," said Mr Jay Walder, Chief Executive Officer of MTR Corporation.

"We will work closely with the contractors to ensure the rolling stocks and new signalling equipment delivered are of the highest quality, and meet our requirements for safe and efficient operation," said Mr TC Chew, Projects Director of MTR Corporation.

The new trains will be delivered with enhanced features including LED interior lighting and 27" Liquid Crystal Display passenger information systems.

The 17-kilometre SCL is a territory-wide strategic railway project with 10 stations, of which six will be interchange stations. The project will be completed in two phases, with the section between Tai Wai and Hung Hom expected to be finished in 2018 and the Hung Hom to Admiralty Section in 2020.