

Bombardier, Siemens shortlisted for RM1.5b KL train order



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BOMBARDIER Inc and Siemens AG are among five companies shortlisted for a RM1.5 billion contract to supply locomotives for the first part of a Kuala Lumpur rail network.

The winner of the deal will be announced by the middle of the year, Datuk Azhar Abdul Hamid (*picture*), chief executive officer of operator Mass Rapid Transit Corp Sdn Bhd (MRT Corp), said in an interview yesterday in Kuala Lumpur. Alstom SA isn't on the shortlist, he said. He declined to elaborate further on the bidders.

State-owned MRT Corp intends to open the 51km line by July 2017, Azhar

said, as the government tackles congestion and pollution from rising traffic.

The full three-line network will carry two million passengers a day when complete and may cost RM48 billion including rolling stock, according to a 2010 government estimate.

The first line will run from the southern suburbs of Kajang to the northern district of Sungai Buloh via the city centre. MRT Corp in January awarded the first major construction contracts, worth a total RM1.74 billion, to IJM Corp Bhd and Ahmad Zaki Resources Bhd.

The full 156km-long network, which

includes some underground sections, is due to be completed by 2020. A new cost estimate will be announced by year-end once key contracts have been awarded, Azhar said.

The government intends to raise as much as RM30 billion through an Islamic bond programme this year to help fund construction, Azhar said last month.

The project is part of a US\$444 billion (RM1.34 trillion) private sector-led investment programme championed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Razak to spur growth in the South-East Asian nation. — *Bloomberg*