

MRT Corp awards RM8.2b contract to MMC-Gamuda JV

Single largest package to design & build a 9.5km MRT underground tunnel & 7 underground stations

by JOHN GILBERT

MASS Rapid Transit Corp Sdn Bhd (MRT Corp) has awarded the under-

ground package of the MY Rapid Transit (MRT) Sungai Buloh-Kajang line worth RM8.2 billion to a joint venture (JV) entity comprising MMC Corp Bhd and Gamuda Bhd (MMC-Gamuda JV).

The scope of work for the contract is to design and build a 9.5km MRT underground tunnel and seven underground stations. Works for the underground package will be di-

rectly supervised by MRT Corp, the consortium said in a media statement yesterday.

According to MRT Corp, the tunneling works alone will comprise about 30%-40% of the total project cost. "The tunnelling works will require underground work at an unprecedented scale as it is the single largest package of the MRT that makes up 30% to 40% out of the total

project cost," MRT Corp chief executive officer Datuk Azhar Abdul Hamid said.

He said the award of the underground package will create numerous job opportunities within Malaysia.

"We are committed towards ensuring the success of the MRT project and the award shows that the MRT

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construction work is gaining momentum as we strive to deliver the project within the targeted time and cost." The MMC-Gamuda JV was selected based on the consortium's strengths in design, construction plant and tunnelling equipment, tunnelling and station construction methodology especially in the challenging karstic limestone formation, and for the construction plan and resources it committed.

The decision to award the underground package to the MMC-Gamuda JV was made at a One Stop Procurement Committee meeting chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Razak on Monday.

The JV entity's experience in handling underground works was an added advantage as it has previously developed the Stormwater Management and Road Tunnel project in Kuala Lumpur.

The entity was one of five companies or JVs which pre-qualified under a stringent set of criteria to tender the underground package of the MRT project. The others were Hyundai-Gadang-Chengal Jaya JV, Taisei Corp, Sinohydro Group Ltd, and the China Railway Group Ltd.

The final evaluation showed that MMC-Gamuda JV was the tenderer who offered the best technical criteria and bid, which was 3.4% lower than the second-lowest offer.