

Siemens plans more bids

Siemens pre-qualified for 4 packages of MRT project

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PETALING JAYA: Siemens Malaysia Sdn Bhd has pre-qualified for four out of the 11 packages for the My Rapid Transit (MRT) project under system works, and will be submitting bids for another two system works packages.

The MRT projects runs from Sungai Buloh to Kajang over 51km and 31 stations, with provision for three more in the future.

Siemens Malaysia president and chief executive officer Prakash Chandran said that Siemens had a track record for constructing MRT systems as it was the turnkey supplier for the MRT system in Bangkok.

Siemens was also the turnkey systems provider for the Express Rail Link (ERL) from the KL International Airport to KL Sentral, where it delivered the project in 32 months instead of the 34 months stipulated.

"The MRT in Bangkok has been running since 2000 and Siemens also holds the maintenance contract with a 98.6% train availability," said Prakash.

Siemens is also bidding as the turnkey contractor for the Ampang light rail transit (LRT) extension line in the packages involving CBTC signalling, power supply and distribution, depot workshop equipment, among others, which has a value of RM1bil. There are currently eight bidders for the Ampang LRT extension job.

Siemens senior vice-president and country division lead Shariman Zain Yusuf added that the extension of the LRT line was something which was not easy as it requires re-signalling of the existing line and new signalling of the extension.

"This is a combination of brown field environment with a new green field environment, and it requires extensive experience and competency on the part of the signalling

systems contractor, and also the capability to have these upgrades done within minimum disruption of the railway service," said Shariman.

The existing Ampang line is over 27km starting from Sentul Timur to Jalan Chan Sow Lin. The new extension is for 17.7km from Seri Petaling through Kinrara, Puchong, then Putra Heights.

Prakash added that Siemens had expressed interest to participate in the systems portion for the 300km high-speed rail project linking Kuala Lumpur and Singapore.

A feasibility study is currently being done by the Land Public Transport Commission (SPAD). SPAD is expected to present its findings to the Cabinet over the next six to nine months. The rail network is expected to cut travel time between Kuala Lumpur and Singapore from six hours to 90 minutes.

The total figure being touted for this project is about RM30bil, but 70% of this cost will probably go



Shariman says LRT line extension was not easy.

towards infrastructure development.

Siemens has the experience of building Velaro high-speed train for service in Spain. A Velaro train can go up to a speed of 350kmph.

Meanwhile, German ambassador to Malaysia Dr Guenter Gruber reiterated Germany's commitment in helping Malaysia achieve its vision as a high-income nation.