

MMC Gamuda seals RM360m deal for MRT project

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KUALA LUMPUR: MMC Gamuda KVMRT (T) Sdn Bhd, a joint venture between MMC Corp Bhd and Gamuda Bhd, sealed a RM360 million sales and purchase agreement for six tunnel boring machines (TBMs).

The six custom-designed TBMs will be used to tunnel through karstic limestone forming half of the proposed 9.5km mass rapid transit (MRT) stretch from Semantan North Portal to Maluri South Portal.

MMC Gamuda will finance the TBM acquisition with the advance payment that the government has provided, said Gamuda managing director Datuk Lin Yun Ling, adding that the government's advanced payment for the underground works contractor accounts for about 5% of the total project cost, which is about RM400 million. "We will be getting the RM400 million from the government," he said.

On the project timeline, Lin said the project is on track and is set to be completed by the middle of 2017 as proposed. He added that MMC Gamuda has already commenced advance activities on the project, such as utilities relocation and traffic diversion.

Excavation works and diaphragm walls for the station are set to be in place for tunnelling works when the TBMs arrive next year.

"It will take around a year to fabricate the machines. We will start the tunnelling works in 1Q13 and they are expected to be completed in 1½ years," said Lin.

Dr Martin Herrenknecht, chairman of Herrenknecht AG, said awarding the MRT project to private companies was a good move by the government as it would promote cost efficiency through timely delivery of the project. Herrenknecht, incorporated in Germany, is an industry leader in tunnel construction, specialising in tunnelling equipment.



Lin (left) exchanging documents with Herrenknecht.