

MMC Gamuda to buy six boring machines

PETALING JAYA: MMC Gamuda KVMRT (T) Sdn Bhd has teamed up with German based Herrenknecht AG to buy six variable density tunnel boring machines for RM360mil.

Financing will be provided by the Government, which will give the appointed underground works contractor RM400mil or a 5% portion of the RM8.28bil underground works package of the Klang Valley My Rapid Transit (KVMRT).

Gamuda Bhd managing director Datuk Lin Yun Ling said that construction of the station boxes for the KVMRT project would start next month to keep up with the tunneling works which begin in the first quarter of 2013.

"Delivery of the tunnel boring machines will take place by the start of 2013, and tunneling works will

begin in the first quarter of 2013. The KVMRT project is still targeted to be completed by mid-2017," said Lin at a press conference yesterday.

MMC Gamuda had also purchased tunnel boring machines from Herrenknecht when it constructed the SMART tunnel in the Klang Valley.

Meanwhile, the tunneling portion which measures some 9.5km, consists of both karstic limestone and Kenny Hills formations.

It is the karstic limestone formation with its unpredictable cavities and a great variety of soil and rock formation which requires a variable density tunnel boring machine. The Kenny Hills formation has more constant soil and more predictable material.

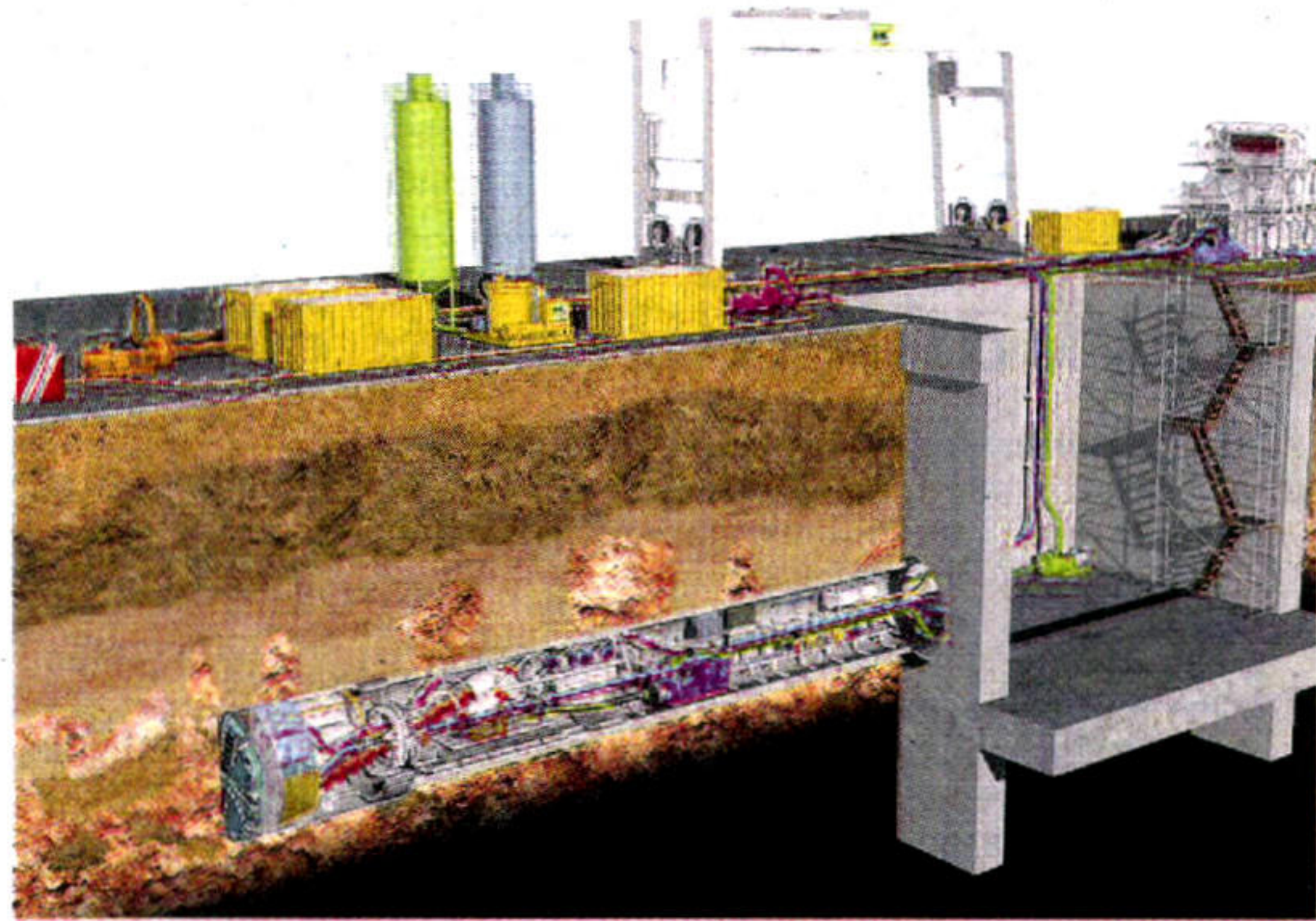
"We will be buying four more

machines for the Kenny Hills formation. These machines will be cheaper and more straight-forward in its usage," said Lin.

Herrenknecht chairman and managing director Martin Herrenknecht said that the tunnel boring machine had a lifespan of about 15km. He added that for the first 200m to 300m of the tunnelling process, Herrenknecht would be in Malaysia to ensure the job was done properly.

MMC Gamuda KVMRT (T) Sdn Bhd is the appointed contractor for the RM8.28bil underground works package of the KVMRT, Sungai Buloh - Kajang Line.

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



An artist's impression of the tunnel burrowing works using the Herrenknecht boring machine.