

No bids submitted yet

None of six pre-qualified companies has put in tender for MRT job

BY SHARIDAN M. ALI

sharidan@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: MRT Corp, a Government agency that supervises the development of the Sungai Buloh-Kajang My Rapid Transit (MRT) project, has confirmed that none of the six pre-qualified companies shortlisted for the supply of rolling stocks for the country's biggest infrastructure project has submitted their bids.

"This is because we have extended the tendering period by four weeks to June 11. Originally, the tendering period was supposed to close yesterday, but as the pre-qualified companies for the supply of trains had sent a lot of clarification questions on the bidding requirements, we have on Apr 26 issued a letter of extension," MRT CEO Datuk Azhar Abdul Hamid told *StarBiz* yesterday.

Azhar was responding to recent a news report saying that the MRT project was getting tepid response from international players as one of



Azhar: 'We have extended the tendering period by four weeks to June 11.'

the companies, namely CSR Zhuzhou Electric Locomotive Co Ltd, was the sole bidder as it was widely perceived that CSR ZhuZhou had a competitive edge over its other rivals.

China's CSR Zhuzhou is constructing its locomotive manufacturing facility in Perak to be completed in two years that reflected an initial investment of RM400mil.

Last month, CSR Zhuzhou reportedly bagged the RM530mil job to supply trains for the Ampang light rail transit (LRT) line extension project to build and supply 20 sets of six-car light rail vehicles.

MRT Corp said the allegation that CSR Zhuzhou was the sole bidder for the rolling stock supply was factually incorrect.

Until the tender is closed, any statement describing the status of a particular companies in relation to the tender process would be speculative and not founded on facts.

According to MRT Corp, the lack of any submission at this juncture was due to the extension as four out the six companies, including CSR Zhuzhou, that had submitted requests for an extension of time.

The other five pre-qualified bidders for the rolling stocks are Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Bombardier, Changchun Railway Vehicles Co, Siemens AG and Hyundai Rotem Co.

"For us, business is business. We

will award the contract to the best bid based on our evaluation process and due diligence," said Azhar. The rolling stock is expected to take up about 5% to 7% of the RM30bil project. The rolling stocks and system requirement segments are the two major parts of the MRT projects that have attracted international interest due to the lack of local expertise.

The tunnelling portion of the MRT, that is the single biggest contract of the project valued at RM8.2bil, had also received international bids but was awarded to MMC-Gamuda Joint Venture Sdn Bhd, which is also the project delivery partner (PDP) of the project. As the bidders for the tunnelling portion also included the PDP, MRT Corp used the Swiss-challenged method for this particular contract.

MRT Corp added that it was committed in ensuring integrity and transparency in its procurement process so as to ensure that the Malaysian public would get a world class MRT system at the most competitive price.