

## ONLINE NEWS

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# KVMRT's First 4-Car Trainset To Undergo Testing

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Pic:NST

**THE** first set of four-car trains for the Klang Valley MRT (KVMRT) Sungai Buloh-Kajang line will undergo testing and commissioning at the depot in Sungai Buloh, Selangor, in November.

MRT Corp Sdn Bhd has ordered 58 four-car train sets for the Sungai Buloh-Kajang line from the Siemens-SMH Rail consortium through a RM3.36 billion tender that was awarded last year.

The driverless trains are designed by DesignworksUSA, a unit of BMW Group.

China's CSR Puzhen will manufacture 232 units of empty train shells for the consortium.

The Chinese company has so far delivered four units.

MRT Corp strategic communications and public relations director Amir Mahmood Razak said SMH Rail is assembling the first train set at its plant in Rasa, Hulu Selangor, using components that are manufactured locally and regionally.

He said when the trains are ready, they will be moved to the Sungai Buloh depot for testing and commissioning and stored there.

“The schedule is that two empty train shells will arrive every two weeks and we will be receiving the next batch soon,” he told Business Times, after MRT Corp’s breaking of fast with the media, here, last week.

MRT Corp ordered the train sets based on the ridership forecast from 2017 up to 2026.

The Sungai Buloh-Kajang line will serve 1.2 million people living in Sungai Buloh, Kota Damansara, Dataran Sunway, Bandar Utama, TTDI, Section 16, Pusat Bandar Damansara, KL Sentral, Warisan Merdeka, Bukit Bintang, Pasar Rakyat, Cochrane, Maluri, Cheras and Kajang.

The expected ridership is 442,000 passengers per day, with a frequency of one train every 3.5 minutes during peak hours.

Each set of trains can accommodate up to 1200 passengers, equivalent to 12 buses or around 700 cars.

The trains will travel at maximum speed of 100km per hour while the average speed will be about 40km per hour.

“The fact that we have a full train set undergoing testing and commissioning in the next four months shows how quickly the MRT project is moving,” Amir said.

The KVMRT involves the construction of a railway network, which will form the backbone of the Klang Valley’s public transport system.

It will be developed in three phases and Line 1 is from Sungai Buloh to Kajang, covering a distance of 51 kilometers, of which 9.5km is underground. It will have 31 stations.

Amir said as at June 30 2014, MRT Corp has completed 45.6 per cent of the total project and the company is on schedule to have it ready by 2017.

*-NST*

*<http://www.nst.com.my/node/15911>*