

MEDIA RELEASE

MRT CORP CONGRATULATES MGKT AND HERRENKNECHT AG

KVMRT owner and developer proud to be using award-winning technology

Kuala Lumpur, 6 December 2014: Mass Rapid Transit Corporation Sdn Bhd (MRT Corp) would like to congratulate MMC Gamuda KVMRT (T) Sdn Bhd (MGKT) and Herrenknecht AG of Germany for winning the International Underground Space and Tunnel Awards 2014 under the Technical Innovation of the Year category for the world's first Variable Density Tunnel Boring Machine (Variable Density TBM).

The Variable Density TBM was used for the MRT Project, to overcome major tunnelling challenges that were posed by Kuala Lumpur's geological formation, which is karstic in nature, also known as the Kuala Lumpur Limestone Formation. The extreme karstic characteristic of the Kuala Limestone Formation became a cause of concern, due to its unpredictable nature.

This was mitigated by the Variable Density TBM, jointly designed by MGKT and Herrenknecht AG, a world-renowned TBM manufacturer.

The use of this TBM enabled works to proceed with only minor incidences of sinkholes which is an existing risk for any tunnelling works.

"Although the incidence of sinkholes is a known risk for any tunnelling works, the Variable Density TBM however has reduced the degree of which this risk has occurred," explained MRT Corp Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Wira Azhar Abdul Hamid, who was in London to witness the award ceremony.

"MRT Corp is proud to be the first beneficiary of this technology, which has been a key factor to a smooth and successful completion of tunnelling underneath Kuala Lumpur's karstic limestone formation," he added.



In October 2014, tunnelling beneath Jalan Bukit Bintang had completed, in an area which straddles two geological formations – the Kuala Lumpur Limestone and the Kenny Hill Formation.

“I would also like to congratulate MGKT for bringing tunnel engineering to a new level internationally. As Malaysians, we feel proud of their achievement, which should become an example for other Malaysian companies to aspire to do the same in groundbreaking innovations,” Azhar said.

MMC Gamuda was among eight other companies shortlisted for the award.

ENDS



About the MRT Project

The MRT is a new urban rail system for the Klang Valley.

The first MRT Line, the 51km Sungai Buloh-Kajang Line will comprise of 31 stations, and serve 1.2 million people along the route.

The MRT Sungai Buloh-Serdang-Putrajaya Line, the second MRT line to be built, was approved by the Government in February 2014. The proposed alignment is expected to go for public display in the first quarter of 2015 and the final alignment is targeted for approval in August 2015.

The Klang Valley MRT will integrate with the Klang Valley's existing rail transport network, namely the LRT, Monorail and KTM Komuter, as well as intra and inter-city bus routes. The end result will be better connectivity for Kuala Lumpur and its surrounding cities, while reducing the number of cars that enter the capital.

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