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RM720-MILLION KL MONORAIL SYSTEM SUPPLY CONTRACT SIGNED

By: Syed Jamil Jaafar

TOKYO, March 26 (Bernama) -- A RM720-million contract for the supply of a monorail system and its related equipment and services was signed here today between KL PRT Sdn Bhd and three Japanese companies -- Itochu Corporation, Toyo Engineering Corporation and Hitachi Ltd.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, here on a four-day official visit, witnessed the signing ceremony at the Imperial Hotel.

Signing on behalf of KL PRT were its chairman, Datuk Kamaruddin Jaafar, director Tan Sri Vincent Tan and managing director David Chew.

The Japanese consortium was represented by Itochu executive vice president Takashi Yamamura, Toyo Engineering president and CEO Morio Sonoda and senior executive managing director of Hitachi, Kunio Hamada.

KL PRT Sdn Bhd is building a 16km long elevated inner city monorail system called PRT or People-Mover Rapid Transit in traffic-congested Kuala Lumpur. The monorail system will complement the services of the two Light Rail Transit (LRT) systems being undertaken by the companies, STAR and PUTRA, as well as the electric commuter train service by KTM Komuter.

KL PRT said in a statement the company signed a RM1.9 billion privatisation agreement with the Malaysian government on Oct 29, 1996 to construct, operate and maintain the PRT system for a concession period of 30 years.

The PRT system is based on the latest version of the Tokyo Monorail Series 1000 train, technically enhanced and improved to suit Kuala Lumpur requirements.

A straddle monorail, the PRT will be manufactured using non-toxic and highly fire resistant materials in accordance with international standards.

The statement said the train would consist of four cars, permanently coupled pairs forming a train of two front and end cars and two intermediate cars.

The height of the train is 4.51 metres, its width three metres, its weight 102 tons and its total length 63.5 metres.

The train will be designed and supplied by Hitachi Ltd while Toyo Engineering will be responsible for the installation works. The operation and maintenance will be supported by Itochu.

KL PRT Sdn Bhd is a 51-percent bumiputera-owned company with its shareholders comprising KL LinearCity Sdn Bhd (63 percent) and KL Monorail Concessionaire Sdn Bhd (37 percent).

The PRT system will operate 14 monorail trains serving 21 stations from Jalan Tun Razak to Kampung Pasir in Jalan Kelang Lama through Bukit Bintang, Brickfields and Taman Desa.

The first 8-km section from Jalan Tun Razak (Pekeliling Bus station) to Brickfields is scheduled to be completed by end of 1998 and Section 2 from Brickfields to Kampung Pasir by end of 1999.

The PRT system can handle 18,000 passengers per hour with 630 passengers per train operating at up to two minutes headway between trains. The service will be from 6 a.m. to midnight. -- BERNAMA

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