

01/06/2001

## Malaysian-made trains for KL Monorail

COMMUTERS will be travelling in Malaysian-made trains when the KL Monorail begins operations next year.

Monorail Malaysia Technology Sdn Bhd (MMT) launched the first Malaysian-made train meant for the new intra-city transit system on Monday. The launch which was officiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad saw the unveiling of the production train by MMT, the system supplier for the project.

MMT which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of MTrans Holdings Sdn Bhd is involved in the design, construction, testing and supply of the monorail system. Its contract valued at RM350 million includes the supply of 12 sets of two-car trains, five electrical substations, communication systems and the electrification of the track.

The two-car train with a carrying capacity of approximately 214 passengers will ply the 8.6km track that runs from Jalan Tun Razak and terminates at the KL Sentral from 6am to 12midnight.

The transit system running through the central business and shopping areas of the city operating at a frequency of two to five minutes during peak hours and five to 10 minutes during off-peak has been designed to integrate with the existing rail transit systems.

The KL Monorail will also be integrated with the Star LRT at the Titiwangsa and Hang Tuah stations and with the Putra LRT at the Bukit Nanas station and KL Sentral. This new transit system will also integrate with the Express Rail Link (ERL) and the KTM Komuter at KL Sentral as well.

Though the trains are capable of travelling at 80km/h, they will, during operation move at an average speed of 30km/h. In terms of travelling times this translates to 19 minutes to complete the end-to-end distance of the track from the Titiwangsa station to KL Sentral, and 9 minutes to get to the midway point of the Bukit Bintang station.

The move to have the trains locally produced is a cost-saving measure in setting up the transit system. MMT chairman David Chew said local production of the trains in its 22-acre facility with a one-km test track is expected to save up to 50 per cent as opposed to purchasing them.

The first fleet of trains is expected to roll off the production lines early next year. The KL Monorail system is expected to be operational by July next year.

(END)