



## JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

# FIRST TUNNEL BORING MACHINE FOR MRT SUNGAI BULOH-SERDANG-PUTRAJAYA LINE UNDERGROUND WORKS READY

**PUSING, 11 AUGUST 2016:** MMC Gamuda KVMRT (T) Sdn Bhd (MGKT), the Underground Works Contractor for the MRT Sungai Buloh-Serdang-Putrajaya Line, completed the Factory Acceptance Test (FAT) for the first tunnel boring machine (TBM) which will later be used for the MRT Sungai Buloh-Serdang-Putrajaya (SSP) Line.

The TBM underwent refurbishment at the Waiko Engineering Sdn Bhd factory here. This is another first for Malaysia, following closely on the first innovative Variable Density TBM which was used for the first time in the world on the MRT Sungai Buloh-Kajang (SBK) Line.

Mass Rapid Transit Corporation Sdn Bhd (MRT Corp) Director of Strategic Communications and Stakeholder Relations, Dato' Najmuddin Abdullah said this was a major milestone for the SSP Line.

"Today, the first of 12 TBM which will be used for the SSP Line's 13.5km underground section is ready for action.

"The FAT is one of many steps which our Underground Works Contractor has to take in preparation to carry out tunnelling and other underground works for the Project," he said during a visit to the factory to mark the completion of the FAT today.

Incidentally, this was the TBM launched by Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak on 30 May 2013 to mark the start of tunnelling works for the SBK Line.

This machine had excavated 4.2km of tunnel, the longest of the eight TBMs used in the SBK Line, before breaking through at the Pasar Seni MRT Station site on 4 April 2015.

MRT Corp Director of SSP Line Underground Works Mr Blaise Mark Pearce said MRT Corp was satisfied with the FAT and the overall refurbishment of the TBM.

"By using refurbished TBMs, not only are we getting significant savings for the SSP Line, we are also going to be using TBMs which we are all very familiar with and know well how they will perform," he said.

MGKT's Project Director Mr Satpal S. Bhogal said this first TBM took six months to be refurbished. After this, it would be dismantled and stored, and would be deployed to the site later when this machine is to start tunnel excavation works according to the work programme.

He said refurbishment work for this TBM started in March 2016 and was performed by senior engineers from MGKT and the trained tunnel crew from MGKT's Tunneling Training Academy, supervised by experts from Herrenknecht AG of Germany which provided the expertise for technology transfer.

Waiko Engineering provided the space and facilities for the refurbishment works which involved high technology and precision engineering works.

The TBM Refurbishment Plant at Waiko Engineering was set up in 2015 as one of the initiatives of the MRT Project Offset Programme, which provides the platform for the development of high technology in Malaysia through cooperation with foreign contractors or suppliers.

"MGKT will spend over RM100 million on the refurbishment of a total of eight TBMs. The eight were used for SBK Line tunnelling works and will subsequently be deployed for tunnelling works in the SSP Line," he said.

He said for the refurbishment process, 70% of the parts used were locally manufactured and almost RM50 million worth of local parts would be procured from local supply chain throughout the two-year refurbishment programme.

"This helps to reduce the demand and import of components from overseas suppliers," he said.

Furthermore, he said more than 50 jobs including mechanics, electricians and specialist welders, and 100 more short to medium term vocational technicians would be created throughout the refurbishment programme.

"These talents involved in the refurbishment work were exposed to various work skills, including advanced welding techniques and methodology; inspection of high precision components; experience and exposure to designs and latest metallurgy used for wear protection; and wide use of Programmable Logic Controller Programming and Automation.

"With this exposure, our local talents will indeed develop to be highly marketable worldwide," Bhogal added.

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