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Consortium appointed for RM9b LRT project

MRCB, George Kent to be project delivery partners, says Prasarana chief

by FARAH ADILLA

A CONSORTIUM involving Malaysian Resources Corp Bhd (MRCB) and George Kent (M) Bhd has been appointed as the project delivery partner (PDP) for the RM9 billion light rail transit (LRT) Line 3 (LRT3) project.

Prasarana Malaysia Bhd president and group CEO Datuk Azmi Abdul Aziz (*picture*) said the appointment was made by the Finance Ministry, based on an open tender process.

The main concept of PDP is that it assumes complete risk ownership and accountability for project delivered, from conceptualisation till date of completion, including specifications to cost, time and quality by integrating all contractors (civil, infrastructure and systems) involved.

PDP role, among others, is to

reduce risk of cost overrun and late completion.

"The appointment of the PDP signifies that the work for LRT3 has started. The PDP will today start the design work before it is approved by Prasarana.

"The PDP will also identify the work packages which is going to be offered to contractors through a round of pre-qualification. We expect to complete the pre-qualification by December," he said at a media briefing in Kuala Lumpur last Friday.

Earlier this year, Azmi said that Prasarana had short-listed six potential PDP. According to reports, that other individual and joint venture bidders include Gamuda and MMC Corp Bhd, UEM Group Bhd, Naza Group and China-based CSR Zhuzhou Electric Locomotive Co

Ltd, Sunway Bhd and WCT Bhd and AlloyMtd group.

Azmi earlier said the packages under the project will be announced two to three months after Prasarana appoints the PDP.

The PDP concept has already been practiced in the mass rapid transit Line 1 development from Sungai Buloh to Kajang, which saw MMC-Gamuda KVMRT Sdn Bhd appointed as PDP for the project.

MMC-Gamuda is a 50:50 joint venture between Gamuda Bhd and MMC Corp Bhd.

Meanwhile, Azmi said the construction of the LRT3 will commence in the first-quarter (1Q) of next year. He said in line with that, the design for the 36km alignment project was expected to be finalised by the 4Q of the year.

Azmi said for land acquisition, the company has identified the corridors but not the pockets of alignment as Prasarana has to comply with the Land Acquisition Act requirement.

Explaining that the RM9 billion budget is just the cost of construction, Azmi said Prasarana has set aside some additional allocation for land acquisition.



Pic by Hafzi Mohamed