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George Kent eyes railway jobs in SE Asia

When we tender in Malaysia, we are tendering against international players, says its chairman

by **PREMALATHA JAYARAMAN**

AFTER clinching the RM1 billion Sungai Buloh-Serdang-Putrajaya (SSP) line project, George Kent (M) Bhd seeks more rail development opportunities abroad, especially in South-East Asia.

Its chairman Tan Sri Tan Kay Hock said the company is currently talking to a few potential companies in South-East Asia but nothing has been firmed up.

Given the firm's experience and track record in railway construction jobs in Malaysia, he believed George Kent would be able to secure some of the available jobs in the targeted markets.

"We are very competitive and we are very confident. When we tender in Malaysia, we are tendering against the international players. So, there is no difference for us competing locally or elsewhere. The same players will be there fighting with us," he told reporters after company's EGM in Kuala Lumpur

yesterday.

The water metering and engineering company presently has an orderbook of RM6 billion, which will keep it busy for the next six years.

George Kent and its joint-venture (JV) partner, Chira Communications Construction Co Ltd, was awarded the RM1.01 billion system work package by Mass Rapid Transit Corp Sdn Bhd (MRT Corp) for the MRT SSP Line.

The package comprises engineering, procurement, construction, testing and commission of track works, maintenance vehicles and work trains for the MRT SSP Line. The work is expected to be completed by May 1, 2022.

The 52.2km MRT SSP Line, which will comprise of 37 stations, stretches from Sungai Buloh to Putrajaya. It will pass through key residential and business areas like Sri Daman-

sara, Kepong, Batu, Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah, Kuala Lumpur City Centre, Tun Razak Exchange, Kuchai Lama, Seri Kembangan and Cyberjaya.

On the possibility for the firm to participate in railway works in Europe, Tan said it is still in the preliminary stage.

According to him, the company already has a presence in the UK as the original equipment manufacturer of water meter components and parts.

George Kent also undertakes technology-critical projects in the healthcare and rail transportation sectors, including the Ampang Line light rail train (LRT) extension works and was recently chosen as the project delivery partner for the LRT3 project via Malaysian Resources Corp Bhd-George Kent JV.

At the EGM, George Kent's shareholders had approved the proposed one-for-four bonus issue involving up to 75.1 million new shares.

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Pic by Muhd Amin Naharul

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