

Commissioning of the New Signalling System and Trains on East Rail Line Held Over

The MTR Corporation announced today (11 September 2020) the commissioning of the new signalling system and gradual introduction of new 9-car trains on the East Rail Line (EAL) scheduled for tomorrow will be held over. The train service on EAL will remain normal with the existing signalling system and 12-car trains.

To ensure smooth operation for passenger service, the Corporation conducted a final review of the new system prior to service commencement. The review took note of an unsatisfactory performance of route setting occurred during testing which may lead to a possible scenario of a train traveling to a destination that is different from its planned route. This has no impact on safety and the possibility of occurrence is low. Based on an evaluation, the engineering team had considered to implement corresponding operational measures. Yet in the final review, the Corporation decided to optimize the system and arrangements instead, in order to better ensure smooth and reliable operations of the new signalling system.

The replacement of the signalling system is a large-scale and complex project involving tens of thousands of electronic components. Stringent and comprehensive testing and drills had been repeatedly carried out for the new signalling system and trains, with various scenarios simulated to test the safety and stability of the new system. MTR personnel have also been conducting various drills and familiarizing with the relevant codes of practice to best prepare for the system changeover.

“The replacement of the signalling system is a complex project. We will ensure operations of the new system are smooth and sound, to provide safe and reliable service to passengers,” said Mr Sammy Wong, Chief of Operating of MTR Corporation.

The Corporation will announce the new service commencement date of the new signalling system and trains in due course.

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About MTR Corporation

Every day, MTR connects people and communities. As a recognised world-class operator of sustainable rail transport services, we are a leader in safety, reliability, customer service and efficiency.

MTR has extensive end-to-end railway expertise with more than 40 years of railway projects experience from design to planning and construction through to commissioning, maintenance and operations. Going beyond railway delivery and operation, MTR also creates and manages dynamic communities around its network through seamless integration of rail, commercial and property development.

With more than 40,000 dedicated staff*, MTR carries over 13 million passenger journeys worldwide every weekday in Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Australia and the Mainland of China. MTR strives to grow and connect communities for a better future.

For more information about MTR Corporation, please visit www.mtr.com.hk.

*includes our subsidiaries and associates in Hong Kong and worldwide