

Hong Kong High-Speed Trains Ready for Track Testing

A new era in travel between Hong Kong and the Mainland of China came into sharper focus today (6 November 2013), as MTR Corporation unveiled the first of its sleek, new aerodynamic high-speed trains which will serve the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link.

Sweeping streaks of red and white on the livery of the eight-car train reflect the warm, smooth and comfortable travel experience that they will provide to passengers. A sharp orange arc on the side of the first car is symbolic of a Chinese dragon and denotes the train's Chinese heritage. The train comprises two trailer cars – one at each end – and six motor cars in the middle, with seating for 579 people. Designed to operate at maximum speeds of 350 kph, the high-speed trains will be travelling at 200kph on the Hong Kong Section of the Express Rail Link.

"We are excited to see the first of our high-speed trains roll off the production line. This marks a significant milestone in the Express Rail Link project, moving us a step closer to the reality of revolutionised journeys to the mainland of China. Not too long from now, trips between Hong Kong and Guangzhou will be measured in minutes instead of hours," said Mr Jay Walder, Chief Executive Officer of MTR Corporation.

"Of course there are still a lot of testing and commissioning work to do to ensure the new trains meet and operate to our stringent safety and performance requirements," added Mr Walder.

In addition to putting in place both system assurance and system integration programmes to manage risks and guarantee all systems work in harmony, the Corporation has commissioned an independent safety assessor to evaluate the safety of the train and associated signalling systems.

The train is now scheduled for track testing on the mainland to verify its operability before it is shipped to Hong Kong in April next year to go through the strict commissioning process. At the same time it will undergo integrated testing with other systems to make sure that it can operate smoothly and reliably in line with other systems including signalling, communications and power supplies.

MTR ordered nine high-speed trains for the Express Rail Link project at a cost of HK\$1.74 billion from CSR Qingdao Sifang Co., Ltd. The train design is based on China's CRH380A model.

Photo caption:

The Express Rail Link train adopts a sleek aerodynamic design with a sharp orange arc symbolic of a Chinese dragon on the nose of the car. The first high-speed train rolling off the production line marks a significant milestone in the Express Rail Link project and a step closer to the reality of revolutionised journeys to the mainland of China.

