

**MTR Awards Major Contract for Replacement of 93 8-Car Trains
Corporation's Largest-Ever Order of New Rolling Stock**

As part of the long-term asset renewal strategy to sustain high quality railway service for passengers, the MTR Corporation has confirmed that it will purchase 93 new eight-car trains to replace all of the first-generation trains now operating on the Kwun Tong, Tsuen Wan, Island and Tseung Kwan O lines. The new trains, featuring more modern operating systems and equipment, will be delivered to Hong Kong between 2018 and 2023.

Following a rigorous tendering process, in which tenders from internationally renowned suppliers were thoroughly reviewed, the contract for the new trains has been awarded to CSR Qingdao Sifang Co., Ltd. (CSR Sifang) for about HK\$6 billion. The Corporation will also be responsible for additional costs related to management and implementation of the replacement programme.

"This is the largest-ever order of new trains in MTR's history and it represents a critically important investment to maintain our railway service at world class levels to ensure that our passengers in Hong Kong continue to enjoy safe, reliable and convenient train services well into the future," said Mr Lincoln Leong, Chief Executive Officer of MTR Corporation.

"Originally, we had planned to replace 78 eight-car trains which have been in service for about 30 years. But in view of the competitive tenders received and after weighing the benefits of having a uniform train fleet equipped with more up-to-date systems, we decided that it would be better value for money to exercise the option included in the tender to replace all 93 first-generation eight-car trains in one go," Mr Leong added.

The new trains will have a number of new features to enhance passengers' travelling experience:

- an improved lighting system will make the train saloons feel more spacious,
- new dynamic route maps will provide more information for passengers,
- double branched handrails introduced throughout the saloons will cater for the need of standing passengers, and
- soft material will be introduced for the straphangers, adopting an ergonomic and sleek design that passengers can hold comfortably.

The new trains will also arrive fully compatible with the new signalling system to be installed on the Kwun Tong, Tsuen Wan, Island and Tseung Kwan O lines in the coming years.

Under the contract, the supply, manufacture, testing and commissioning of the 93 eight-car trains are required to be carried out in accordance with MTR specifications, and under the rigorous design and manufacturing standards of MTR Corporation. The contractor will conduct world-wide procurement for sub-systems and perform pre-delivery factory and type tests to ensure that high quality performance standards are achieved. In addition, the Corporation will have staff stationed full-time at the factory to quality-assure the manufacturing and assembly processes.

“We will be working very closely with CSR Sifang to bring our passengers a new generation of high quality trains that meet our requirements for safe and efficient operation. Following delivery of the trains to Hong Kong, rigorous testing and commissioning will be conducted before they are certified by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department to enter service. We expect the first of the new trains to start entering service, at the earliest, towards the end of 2018,” said Dr Jacob Kam, Operations Director of MTR Corporation.

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About MTR Corporation

MTR Corporation is regarded as one of the world’s leading railway operators for safety, reliability, customer service and cost efficiency. In its home base of Hong Kong, the Corporation operates nine commuter railway lines, a Light Rail network and a high-speed Airport Express link on which more than 5.4 million passenger trips are made on a normal week day. Another 4.9 million passenger trips are made on the rail services it operates outside Hong Kong in the Mainland of China, the United Kingdom, Sweden and Australia. In addition, the Corporation is involved in a range of railway construction projects as well as railway consultancy and contracting services around the world. Leveraging on its railway expertise, the Corporation is involved in the development of transit-related residential and commercial property projects, property management, shopping malls leasing and management, advertising media and telecommunication services.

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