

New Signalling System and Trains on the East Rail Line from 12 September 2020

The MTR Corporation announced today (28 August 2020) that, in preparation for extending the East Rail Line (EAL) across the harbour to Admiralty Station, the commissioning of the new signalling system on the EAL will take place on 12 September 2020 (Saturday). From this date, new 9-car trains will be progressively introduced on the EAL. This is an important milestone for Shatin to Central Link (SCL) project.

From 12 September, there will be a mix of new 9-car and existing 12-car trains, i.e. Mixed Fleet Operations, on the EAL. By the time the EAL runs all the way to Admiralty, as many as 37 new 9-car trains will be introduced. Measures will be introduced in stations to facilitate passenger familiarisation with the new boarding and alighting arrangements for Mixed Fleet Operations. Passengers will be guided by prominent blue and green signs on platforms, information display panels, clear public announcements and additional customer service staff in stations. Measures, such as deploying the 12-car trains as practical as possible to serve the southbound traffic during the morning peak hours in the early stage of the new arrangement, have been formulated to ensure smooth passenger flow and railway service.

“The new signalling system and trains at the EAL have completed all necessary testing and drills, and obtained approval from the relevant Government departments. They are ready for passenger service in terms of safety and reliability,” said Mr C L Leung, Head of E&M Construction of MTR Corporation.

“We understand passengers might need time to get used to the new boarding arrangement, therefore we will implement measures to assist passengers. Teething problems and minor adjustments are expected in the initial stage; we appeal to passengers to exercise understanding and patience,” said Mr Sammy Wong, Chief of Operating of MTR Corporation.

With the EAL Extension across the harbour, the journey time from Hung Hom to Admiralty, without interchange, will reduce from approximately 18 to 5 minutes, offering a convenient and fast alternative route for passengers to cross the harbour. The commissioning of new signalling system and introduction of 9-car trains serve as facilitating the service enhancement after the EAL Extension and to cope with space constraints on the tracks alignment of Hong Kong Island section.

The target opening date of the Hung Hom to Admiralty Section is the first quarter of 2022. Despite challenges arising from the pandemic, which has restricted supply chains and overseas support, the Corporation is making every effort to meet the targeted opening.

-End-

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

Photo caption:

1. The first batch of new trains will put into service on the EAL from 12 September 2020.



2. The new trains are ready for passenger service.



3. Prominent blue and green signs are posted on platforms to guide passengers to the appropriate boarding areas.



Annex: Features of new train

The new trains, manufactured by Hyundai Rotem Company in South Korea, are equipped with various new features to enhance passengers' travel experience, including:



Train bodies are about 12cm wider than that of the existing trains, providing a more spacious travelling environment and narrowing the platform gap



Improved design of train compartments and handrails to encourage passengers to move inside the train



Evenly distributed doors that make boarding and alighting more convenient for passengers



Environmentally friendly LED lighting systems that create a brighter travelling environment



Dynamic route maps and gangway-end displays to provide more information to passengers during their journeys



To cope with space constraints on the new platform layouts on Hong Kong Island, the existing trains of the EAL will gradually be replaced by 37 sets of new trains under a programme that will take place in phases over the coming 18 months.