

## East Rail Line Cross-harbour Extension to Start Trial Operations

MTR Corporation is pleased to announce that the East Rail Line (“EAL”) cross-harbour extension reaches another significant milestone today (31 January 2022) with the commencement of trial operations. Starting from tomorrow (1 February 2022) in non-peak period of the traffic hours and some non-traffic hours, some non-passenger EAL trains will pass through existing EAL stations via the new platform at Hung Hom Station to the new Exhibition Centre Station and the future EAL terminus at Admiralty Station. These train runs are a trial for the commencement of passenger services on the EAL cross-harbour extension, targeted in June / July this year.

The start of trial operations is a major project milestone, signifying readiness to extend the EAL service from Hung Hom to Hong Kong Island. Railway construction works have been substantially completed, with new trains being delivered to Hong Kong and put into service progressively. In this trial operations period, the operations team will ensure railway systems, facilities and staff are fully prepared to deliver a safe and reliable passenger service. Major aspects of trial operations include running train services and station facilities, final train trial running, and drills and exercises. Trial operations are significant to new railway projects, enabling the operations teams to build familiarity with the railway and carry out any final adjustments to the planned operating arrangements and equipment setting, all to ensure safe and reliable passenger service. Passengers should note that, as part of these adjustments there may be minor train service changes on some sections of the EAL during the trial operations period.

“The transition to trial operations today marks the final phase, not only of the new EAL extension project, but also another step closer towards the completion of the whole Shatin to Central Link project. We thank the community for their understanding and support throughout the years, without which this mega project could not be accomplished,” said Mr James Chow, General Manager-SCL & HSR of MTR Corporation.

“Over 900 colleagues in our operations team are gearing up to deliver excellent customer services once the EAL cross-harbour extension is commissioned. Staff training and hundreds of drills and exercises, simulating different operational scenarios, will be held to enable our colleagues to become fully conversant with the new railway systems and facilities,” said Mr Sammy Wong, Chief of Operating & Metro Segment of MTR Corporation.

With the EAL extending from Hung Hom Station to Admiralty Station via the new Exhibition Centre Station, it will become Hong Kong's fourth cross-harbour railway line. With a total route length of around 46 km, the full EAL will allow passengers from the Northeast New Territories and Central Kowloon to reach the commercial, convention, exhibition and financial hubs in Wan Chai North and Admiralty areas in a single ride.

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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](http://www.mtr.com.hk).

\*includes our subsidiaries and associates in Hong Kong and worldwide

Photo Caption

1. Testing of various railway systems, train services and station facilities is being carried out in both the EAL cross-harbour extension section and along the full line to ensure smooth and reliable system performance.





2. During trial operations, some non-passenger trains will start running along the full EAL during traffic hours for trial runs.





3. Hundreds of drills and exercises will be performed during trial operations to fully prepare station staff, train service control and maintenance staff etc.

