

SNIPPETS

## Mobilus introduces the Automated Rapid Transit

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Mobilus Sdn Bhd (Mobilus) today marked its first presence into the green urban transportation market by introducing the state-of-the-art Automated Rapid Transit (ART) system at the International Greentech & Eco Products Exhibition & Conference Malaysia 2019.

Mobilus was invited by the State Government as one of the participating partners in the IGE 2019. Mobilus is a 51:49 joint venture company established between Ireka Corporation Berhad and CRRC Urban Traffic Co., Ltd. (CRRC UT, a member of CRRC Group) to pursue urban transportation business opportunities in Malaysia and the South East Asian (ASEAN) region. CRRC Group is the world's largest manufacturer of rolling stock and rail related products and systems.

The need for improved connectivity and convenience of public transportation to address worsening traffic congestion in an overcrowded road network, with the increased need for parking spaces, amongst other challenges, has created opportunities for innovative urban transportation solutions, in Malaysia and in the region.

Hence, one of the key focuses for Mobilus is on green energy and smart transportation solutions, in particular implementing an ART system for cities (a first in Malaysia and South East Asia). This initiative is line with the Malaysian Government's objective to increase the take-up rate of public transportation to 40% by 2030 and hence lower the carbon footprint in the region for sustainable development purposes.

ART is a leading edge technology from the CRRC Group that combines the transit capacity of a modern tram, with a virtual track, rail-less technology, hence bringing about a significant reduction in implementation costs and timeline compared to traditional rail transit systems.

Being the latest tram transit technology, ART allows for high passenger capacity and lower cost of implementation compared to conventional trams, as it runs on virtual tracks without having conventional rail tracks, and operates on clean sources of energy like electricity or hydrogen. The multi-carriage, electric-powered unit is equipped with sensors that read the dimensions of a road, enabling it to automatically plan its own route instead of following conventional rail tracks. With a maximum speed of 80 kilometers per hour, the ART urban transport system is agile, comfortable, non-polluting and scalable, carrying all the advantages of a rail transit system but at a much lower implementation costs compared to a conventional rail transit system.

ART, already in operation in a few cities across China, including Zhuzhou, Yongxiu, Yibin and Xiamen, is gradually being rolled out in a number of other cities across China, both as a backbone transit system for smaller cities, or a supporting feeder line for larger cities.

Recently in July, ART started its trial run in Doha, Qatar, with an intention of the ART being rolled out in time for the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Meanwhile in Malaysia, on 25 September, Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Abang Johari Tun Openg told the media that Sarawak has decided on the ART system to improve public transportation in Greater Kuching and will implement works to construct dedicated lanes for the ART next year. If this materialises, our country will be the first in the ASEAN region to adopt this latest technology.

"We are very proud that Mobilus was invited by the Kedah State Government to participate in the IGE 2019 officiated by our Prime Minister Tun Mahathir. The establishment of Mobilus with CRRC UT will see Ireka breaking new ground into urban transportation and being at the forefront of working towards solving the country's urban transportation problem. Since 2018, we have been working on development opportunities on the ART which included discussions with the Ministry of Transport, State Governments, city councils and other relevant authorities. Although in its early stages, the responses have been encouraging and we are currently working on various opportunities in different locations," says Datuk Lai Voon Hon, Group MD, Ireka Corporation Berhad at the IGE 2019."



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