

New trains ordered for Shatin to Central Link

The MTR Corporation has awarded two contracts worth HK\$2.32 billion in total to Changchun Railway Vehicles Co Ltd and Itochu-Kinki Sharyo-Kawasaki Consortium (IKSK) respectively for the purchase of new trains and modification of existing trains for the East West Corridor of the Shatin to Central Link (SCL).

Changchun Railway won a HK\$1.14 billion contract for the design, supply, manufacture, testing and commissioning of 14 new eight-car trains to be delivered to Hong Kong for testing and commissioning in 2017 and operation by 2018.

The IKSK Consortium won a HK\$1.18 billion contract for the design, manufacture, delivery, testing and commissioning of 36 new train cars as well as the modification and reconfiguration of 348 train cars from the existing West Rail Line, East Rail Line and Ma On Shan Line.

The 17 km SCL is a strategic railway project with ten stations, of which six will be interchange stations. The project will be completed in two

phases, with the section between Tai Wai and Hung Hom expected to be finished to form the East West Corridor in 2018 and the section between Hung Hom and Admiralty to form the North South Corridor in 2020.

Separately, MTR has signed a strategic cooperation framework agreement with the Longhua New District Administration Commission in Shenzhen for the north extension of Shenzhen Metro Longhua Line.

The proposed north extension of Longhua Line would stretch from the existing Qinghu Station northward to the Guanlan area. Under the strategic cooperation framework agreement, MTR will offer advice and technical support to the construction of the north extension and a light rail system in Longhua. Its areas of focus will include railway alignment, design and operations. The Corporation will also advise on the integrated development of a rail transport hub from the planning stage.

Smartphone app engineered for parking

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) and Sino Parking Services Ltd (Sino Parking) have jointly developed and launched a new application for Android smartphones to make parking in the town centre easier.

The Innovation & Technology Fund provided the funding for the project undertaken by PolyU's Department of Industrial & Systems Engineering (ISE) and Sino Parking, entitled "Development and Implementation of an Advanced Automobile Parking Navigation Platform". It aims to design and develop an Internet of Things (IoT)-based advanced automobile parking navigation platform with three core systems: smart devices, software module and middleware.

These systems, through integration with emerging technologies such as IoT-based cloud service, near field communication (NFC), wireless sensor and actuator network (WSAN) and WSAN middleware, will provide drivers with state-of-the-art automobile parking navigation services.

Atkins to design Qingdao airport terminal

Atkins and China Southwest Architectural Design & Research Institute (CSWADI) have won a contract for the conceptual planning and terminal design of the new Qingdao airport.

To be developed with an investment of 35 billion yuan, Qingdao airport is one of the largest of five airports approved by the National Development & Reform Committee (NDRC). Qingdao airport will serve as a main regional hub and enhance the aviation capacity for both passengers and cargo. The project covers all design aspects including master planning, airfield design, transport planning, landscaping and water engineering. Scheduled for completion in 2017, Qingdao airport will have the capacity to process 38 million passengers per year by 2025 and 60 million passengers per year by 2045.

Leighton wins CWB contract

Leighton Asia has been awarded a HK\$3.1 billion contract by the Highways Department to construct the tunnel buildings, systems and fitting out works associated with the construction of the Central-Wanchai Bypass (CWB) tunnel.

This is the third CWB project to be awarded to Leighton, following the award of the 2010 contract for the construction of the Central Interchange and the Central Reclamation Phase III in 2009. The contract calls for the installation of extensive specialist electrical and mechanical (E&M) works, including route-wide tunnel E&M works, traffic control and surveillance systems, road tunnel wall cladding works, the tunnel roof thermal barrier and the tunnel road pavement construction for the complete tunnel from Central to North Point. It also includes the construction and fitting-out of ventilation buildings and an administration building.

The project is scheduled for completion by 2018.

Mannings Asia wins barrier-free access consultancy

Mannings Asia Consultants have been appointed by the Highways Department to undertake a design and construction supervision assignment for barrier-free access facilities (BFA) that cover works for footbridges and subways that are evenly distributed in New Territories districts, namely North, Sai Kung, Sha Tin, Yuen Long, Tai Po, Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun.

Lifts to be added to 25 selected structures will be implemented under two construction contracts, which will adopt the NEC contract type. This is the firm's 4th consultancy agreement for public barrier-free access facilities.