

**Speech by Mr Seah Moon Ming, SMRT Chairman during
MOU signing with CRRC Sifang on Wednesday, 6
November 2024**

Good morning, distinguished guests, partners, and friends.

Today marks a special occasion for our rail industry as CRRC Sifang and SMRT come together to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and launch a Technology Refresh Proof of Concept Trial for our Kawasaki-Sifang (KSF) B Trains.

This event is more than a formal signing - it is a celebration of innovation, collaboration, and our shared commitment towards advancing public transportation. Our partnership with CRRC Sifang is built upon mutual trust, professionalism, technical excellence, and a shared vision to raise train operations and maintenance standards. The agreements we sign today reflect this strong commitment and our partnership to develop advanced technologies that will shape the future of our rail industry.

SMRT brings deep expertise in rail systems operations and maintenance, while CRRC Sifang brings sophisticated capabilities in design and manufacturing. Through advanced condition monitoring technologies, digital management systems, and intelligent decision support tools, we will make significant strides towards enhancing the safety, reliability and resilience of our network.

In particular, the KSF B Train Technology Refresh Proof of Concept Trial represents a major step forward as we work towards the revitalization of our fleet. It will be far more than a standard refurbishment project. The trial will enable us to validate the latest in Condition Monitoring and Structural Health Monitoring technologies. These technologies will allow us to continuously monitor critical train systems for proactive management of safety and reliability, and ensure commuter comfort.

Beyond safety and reliability, this project reaffirms our commitment towards sustainability - an essential pillar of SMRT's mission. We are integrating environmentally sustainable solutions to set a new benchmark for Singapore's rail systems. For example, the upgraded air conditioning system will not only enhance the train's cooling capacity in Singapore's warm climate but will, importantly, be eco-friendly.

SMRT's top priority is to provide safe and reliable rail services that move people and enhance lifestyles. Since 2019, all our MRT lines have consistently met the 1 million Mean Kilometres Between Failure (MKBF) target, and we aim to sustain this performance.

Earlier this month, we announced the establishment of a Tripartite Rail Safety and Reliability Review Workgroup, which brings together LTA as the asset owner, SMRT as the operator, and our union representatives. Together, we will work towards strengthening Life Cycle Management by enhancing Asset Renewal and Retirement protocols, sharpening Systems Engineering for safety and reliability, as well as adopting best practices in operations and maintenance.

We are also pleased to invite CRRC Sifang to participate in this workgroup, where their expertise in rolling stock design, along with strong competencies in asset design and renewal, will be invaluable. At SMRT, we are committed to continuous improvement. It is in our Kaizen DNA. Our focus remains on safety, reliability, and sustainability for the benefit of our commuters and our people. These initiatives will enable SMRT to sustain world-class performances in safety and reliability over the long term.

I would also like to take this time to express my gratitude to CRRC Sifang for their enduring friendship and partnership. Your expertise and innovative spirit have been instrumental in our past successes. Today, we will pave the way towards exciting new ventures. Together, we aim to push the boundaries of rail technology and deliver unmatched safety, reliability, and exceptional commuter experiences. Ultimately, it is the commuter experience that counts. Thank you for partnering with us on this journey.

And to everyone present here, thank you for being a part of this milestone event.