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PRESS STATEMENT BY THE CHIEF MINISTER OF PENANG, YAB TUAN CHOW KON YEOW

PENANG HILL CABLE CAR PROJECT: REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) AWARDED

December 14, 2022 – Penang Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow, who is also the chairman of Penang Hill Corporation (PHC) announced that the RFP for the Penang Hill cable car project has been awarded to Hartasuma Sdn Bhd at the press conference today.

The call for the RFP to solicit the best proposal for the Penang Hill cable car service, commenced 13 January 2021 and the validity period was extended to 30 November 2022 due to the pandemic and restricted movement control orders. The project is awarded through Public Private Partnership (PPP) on Design, Finance, Build, Operate and Transfer or a sub-set of the Joint Venture Partnership basis. Bidders with good project management, strong technical and financial capabilities and expertise in cable car project construction were invited to participate in the said RFP.

The Evaluation Committee from various government agencies assessed the RFP proposals in accordance with the requirements stipulated in the RFP document. Hartasuma Sdn Bhd was recommended by the Evaluation Committee and approved by the Penang State Government tender board. The estimated investment by the successful bidder is expected to be approximately RM245 million and the project is based on a 30-year concession period, following the open bidding.

The alignment and the suitability of the location of the cable car project were taken into consideration by the Evaluation Committee, with most feasible route alignment site near the Penang Botanic Gardens. The project is expected to take three years to fully complete and be operational.

The successful bidder, Hartasuma Sdn Bhd, is a homegrown pioneer in the local rail industry and has almost 30 years of experience in the entire range of project delivery from project management, international supply chain and logistics management, testing and commissioning protocols and project financing. They have successfully delivered more than 400 rail cars to some of the largest public transport projects in Kuala Lumpur including the busiest urban route in Malaysia, the Kelana Jaya Line. They bring with them a management team who have operational experience in the MRT Line 1 and the highly successful Langkawi Cable Car.

They were awarded the job based on their financial capacity, proposed cable car system provider, technical and operational capabilities, environmental protection measures and proposal at the time of bidding.

Penang Chief Minister YAB Tuan Chow Kon Yeow said, "With the new cable car in place, Penang will gain another iconic tourist attraction in addition to the existing funicular railway that serves residents and visitors at the Hill for almost 100 years. We hope it will help redistribute traffic particularly during the peak seasons, complementing the existing century status of the funicular service from the Air Itam area. Also, we hope this greener mode of transportation will further enhance the tourism experience and contribute to the socio-economic of the surrounding areas which will offer approximately 500 job opportunities. We are anticipating to see further growth in the tourism sector as a whole once the cable car is operational."

"With an annual visitor population of more than 1.3 to 1.8 million, we hope the cable car will play a practical role in tourist load balancing. PHC is looking forward to implementing environmentally friendly transportation option for visitors to the cable car station to reduce carbon emissions in the Penang Hill Biosphere Reserve area. Besides, the cable car will provide a safe and enjoyable ride that will heighten visitors' appreciation towards nature amid admiring the lush greeneries and aerial view of the Penang Hill Biosphere Reserve," added Chow.

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About Penang Hill Corporation

Penang Hill Corporation was established in 2009 through an enactment passed by the Penang State Legislative Assembly. Its main focus is to manage the funicular system, undertake the development of socio-economy and infrastructure in Penang Hill and promote the Hill as a major ecotourism destination, in its vision to make Penang Hill the Hill Resort of Choice in Malaysia and the region.

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