

12 May 2020

## **SMRT Corporation partners Temasek Foundation, HOPE Technik and Sheares Healthcare to deploy special buses for COVID-19 operations**

1. SMRT Corporation, Singapore-based engineering firm HOPE Technik, and Sheares Healthcare, with the support of Temasek Foundation, have joined hands to retrofit existing SMRT buses into special vehicles for COVID-19-related operations. The joint effort is part of Temasek Foundation's Stay Prepared initiative and supports the nation's SGUnited community efforts by leveraging each other's strengths in overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. These vehicles, called COVID-19 Multi-Passenger Enhanced Transporter (COMET MAXI), will help facilitate the mass transfer of passengers between facilities, including hospitals, dormitories and various community facilities. Engineered for the safety of all on board, the COMET MAXI has the driver and the passengers located in two compartments separated by a completely sealed divider. Each compartment has its own independent air-conditioning system, which allows air circulation within both cabins to be separated. The passengers' compartment is equipped with a Negative Pressure System with a HEPA filter which will help ensure that only clean air is filtered out from the passengers' compartment.

3. The COMET MAXIs, which can take more than 30 passengers in the passengers' compartment, have been deployed since 6 May. The driver's compartment has two additional seats for accompanying paramedics, if they are needed.

4. TRIGEN Automotive, the special function vehicle division of HOPE Technik, designed and engineered COMET MAXI's features. HOPE Technik is a home-grown engineering firm with expertise in mechanical, electrical & electronics, and software engineering since 2006. SMRT subsidiary STRIDES Transportation, a leading provider of limousine services and premium bus services in Singapore, oversees the operations, driver training and maintenance of the COMET MAXI fleet. Sheares Healthcare, which invests in and provides healthcare delivery services in Asia, owns the fleet of COMET MAXIs and will work with the Ministry of Health to complement its patient transport services.

Media Release

5. Prior to deployment, COMET MAXI drivers need to undergo 20 hours of training conducted by SMRT, including familiarisation with operating the vehicles' safety features such as the Negative Pressure System. To further protect the drivers, they will also have to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) while on duty.

6. Mr Seah Moon Ming, Chairman, SMRT Corporation, said: "We stand united and do our part during the COVID-19 pandemic. In support of Temasek Foundation's "Stay Prepared" initiative, SMRT has worked with Sheares Healthcare and HOPE Technik to design and produce COMET MAXIs to transport passengers. We are glad to support this meaningful initiative by leveraging our operational and technical capabilities in public transport."

7. Mr Peter Ho, Co-founder and CEO of HOPE Technik, said: "HOPE Technik is honoured to be a part of the fight against COVID-19 to ensure that both driver and passengers are safe during transit. It is energising to work together with the teams from different organisations as we all come together to fight one single mission. Together, we can make a difference in the fight against the pandemic!"

8. Mr TK Udairam, Group Chief Operating Officer, Sheares Healthcare Management, said: "Sheares Healthcare is glad to work with our partners to develop and operate a safe system for transporting passengers. It's our small contribution towards the national effort to contain the spread of the virus. A member of SG United!"

-END-

**Media Contacts:**

**SMRT Corporation Ltd**

SMRT Corporate Communications

Tel: +65 9822 0902

Email: [media@smrt.com.sg](mailto:media@smrt.com.sg)

**HOPE Technik**

Joni Chen (Ms)

Marketing Lead

Tel: +65 9179 0693 / 9066 8560

Email: [joni.chen@hopetechnik.com](mailto:joni.chen@hopetechnik.com)

**Temasek Foundation**

Lim Mingyi (Ms)

Director, Communications, Temasek Foundation

Tel: +65 9021 5779

### **About *Stay Prepared* Programmes**

*Stay Prepared* helps to prepare the Singapore community for emergencies like major accidents, natural disasters, pandemics, severe haze or terrorist attacks. It is supported by the Temasek Emergency Preparedness Fund, managed by Temasek Foundation.

### **About Temasek Foundation**

Temasek Foundation supports programmes that uplift lives and communities in Singapore and beyond. We aim to strengthen social resilience, foster international exchange and enhance regional capabilities, and advance science and nature for a sustainable world.

For more information, visit [www.temasekfoundation.org.sg](http://www.temasekfoundation.org.sg).

### **About SMRT Corporation Ltd**

SMRT Corporation Ltd (SMRT) is a public transport services provider. Our primary business is to manage and operate train services on the North-South Line, East-West Line, the Circle Line, the new Thomson East-Coast Line and the Bukit Panjang Light Rail Transit. This is complemented by our bus, taxi and private hire vehicle services.

We have set our core values to be Integrity, Service and Safety, and Excellence. SMRT Trains is committed to provide safe, reliable and comfortable service for our commuters.

### **About STRIDES Transportation Pte Ltd**

STRIDES Transportation Pte Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of SMRT Corporation Ltd. We are a leading provider of limousine services and premium bus services in Singapore.

### **About Sheares Healthcare Group**

Sheares Healthcare Group invests in and provides healthcare delivery services in Asia, with a focus on China, India, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines, and in the United States.

Sheares looks to build its portfolio of healthcare delivery assets by investing in healthcare companies with strong management teams and proven track records. Using our experience and expertise, we work with our portfolio companies to improve their business models in healthcare delivery in order to provide innovative and patient-focused care.

Sheares aims to develop new healthcare delivery models and processes in the right setting by leveraging innovative technologies and operators.

Sheares is wholly-owned by Temasek, a global investment company headquartered in Singapore.

For more information, visit our website at [www.sheareshealthcare.com](http://www.sheareshealthcare.com)

### **About HOPE Technik**

HOPE Technik is a Singapore-proud engineering firm that has been evolving the industry landscape with its technological innovations since 2006. The company's unique structure empowers each of its businesses to develop world-class products and prototype innovative solutions for its global clients. Regardless of how unusual a project may be, HOPE Technik's dedicated team of qualified engineers and technical staff are committed to translate concepts into reality.

[www.hopetechnik.com](http://www.hopetechnik.com)

### **About TRIGEN Automotive (a division of HOPE Technik)**

TRIGEN Automotive is a leading manufacturer of special function vehicles and emergency response robotics solutions. Its wide array of vehicles, ranging from firefighting emergency trucks to utility vehicles, are designed and engineered with advanced technologies to achieve maximum operational effectiveness. Its robotics solutions are developed with active inputs from emergency services, making each solution fully effective in handling real-life challenges.

At the heart of every TRIGEN Automotive vehicle and robotics solution lies the passion of a team committed to delivering quality products and solutions. As TRIGEN Automotive powers ahead, we will continue to steer the future with reliable solutions and innovative products.

[www.trigenautomotive.com](http://www.trigenautomotive.com)