

## HSR, New MRT Line Tenders Likely in 2014

The Land Public Transport Commission's (SPAD) expects the Kuala Lumpur-Singapore high-speed rail (HSR) project and the next mass rapid transit (MRT) line to reach their tender and award phases in one-and-a-half years, said CIMB Research. "Although feasibility studies have been completed, approval of alignments and the Cabinet go-ahead have yet to be secured with project structures yet to be finalised," said its analyst, Sharizan Rosely. The next MRT line is likely to be a circle line. Its detailed feasibility study has been completed and the government will make a decision by end of 2013. Factoring in the time needed for the Cabinet's approval, public displays of alignments and tendering, the award is likely by mid of 2014. On the RM30 billion widely reported cost estimate for the HSR project, Sharizan said it is still questionable, pending a decision on the rail's final alignment, track profile and number of stops. The alignments (320-330km) will be entirely new and are likely to cover the major part of the western corridor of Peninsular Malaysia. What is more certain is that the HSR will not likely adopt magnetic levitation (maglev) technology as this would be costlier.

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