



20 March 2009

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

JOBS FOR SINGAPOREANS AT FIRST-EVER JOINT PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS-UNION JOB FAIR

NTWU, SBS Transit Ltd, SMRT Ltd and NTUC's e2i join forces to provide employability and employment assistance for Singaporeans

1 The SBS Transit Ltd (SBST), SMRT Corporation Ltd (SMRT), National Transport Workers' Union (NTWU) and e2i (Employment and Employability Institute), are working together to help bring more Singaporean workers into the public transport industry.

2 The four partners will be holding a joint public transport job fair at e2i on 20 March 2009. A total of 180 SBS Transit Bus Captain and over 100 SMRT Service Leaders job vacancies are available for job seekers, who can expect a gross monthly remuneration of about \$1,700, excluding travel benefits, Annual Wage Supplement and bonuses.

3 To support this effort, e2i and WDA bring the in-house training programmes delivered by the public transport operators under SPUR (Skills Programme for Upgrading and Resilience). SPUR comprises two pillars – one to help companies cut cost and minimise retrenchments, and the other to help workers find new jobs and enter new careers. e2i and WDA will set aside \$3.2 million over two years to drive this initiative.

4 About 100 job seekers are expected to attend the job fair and undergo job interviews conducted by the two public transport operators. These job seekers are carefully selected and trained by e2i to ensure that they possess the prerequisites to take up bus driving as a career. These include having a positive attitude, willing to work rotating shifts, at least a Secondary Two education or a Workplace Literacy Level 3, and possessing a Class 3 driving licence for at least a year. Job seekers who are interested

in bus driving are encouraged to visit e2i to go through the selection and training process. Please see ANNEX A for more details of the job fair.

5 The job fair was mooted last year by Mr Seng Han Thong in his capacity as Executive Secretary of NTWU. "Many Singaporeans hold the Class 3 but not Class 4 driving licence. And they want a steady job with CPF and other benefits but have not thought of bus driving as a career. Many know that the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) and its affiliated unions care and share with fellow workers and want to be a part of us. This is the best time for them to join the public transport industry as the job fair, which includes an Employability Camp component, is specially-tailored for them," said Mr Seng.

6 On the Employability Camp, which is managed by NTUC LearningHub, Mr Zee Yoong Kang, Chief Executive of NTUC LearningHub commented, "We are proud to work closely with the public transport operators, union and e2i in this important job fair initiative. For job seekers, transiting to a new career as Bus Captains or Service Leaders does not just require new skills but also the right attitude and preparedness to make a major career switch. NTUC LearningHub's Employability Camps are a key intervention in our efforts to help job seekers move across to job opportunities in promising new sectors such as public transport."

7 Of this inaugural initiative, SMRT Corporation President and CEO Ms Saw Phaik Hwa said, "SMRT is happy to collaborate with NTWU and e2i in this inaugural joint public transport job fair. We are looking for Singaporeans with a positive service mindset to join us in delivering safe and reliable bus services to our nation. We have immediate vacancies for over 100 Service Leaders, who can look forward to a rewarding career with SMRT."

8 Mr Gan Juay Kiat, Executive Director of SBS Transit said, "Bus Captains are a critical part of our business and our priority has always been to recruit Singaporeans to join us as Bus Captains. Unfortunately, we have not had much success in doing so despite various efforts through the years to try and make the job more attractive. We are hopeful that our latest efforts with e2i and NTWU will bear more fruit and more Singaporeans will come to realise that bus driving is a rewarding and fulfilling career."

9 Successful job seekers will undergo one month of in-house training by both public transport operators to prepare them as Bus Captains or Service Leaders. The training topics include driving skills (to obtain Class 4A driving licence), traffic safety and customer service. The trainees are not required to pay any course fees, and will be given a training allowance during the duration of training.

10 Mr Chan Heng Kee, Chief Executive of the Singapore Workforce Development Agency said, "This job fair initiative by the bus companies and NTUC's e2i is an excellent and timely one. It is also a good example of how the tripartite effort under the SPUR programme can help Singaporeans acquire skills that will enable them to take on jobs in hiring sectors."

11 "Bus driving is a respectable, honest and meaningful professional. The Bus Captain and Service Leaders provide a vital service to the public, and can take pride in their work. e2i is therefore very happy to be part of this initiative, and to bring it under SPUR to help more Singaporeans find jobs. We aim to sustain the effort over the next six months to fill all the vacancies. In such times of difficulties, we need more of such initiatives under SPUR, so Singapore workers who lost their jobs can get back on their feet again." said Mr Ong Ye Kung, Acting Executive Secretary of NTWU and Chairman of e2i.

Jointly issued by:

National Transport Workers' Union, SBS Transit Ltd, SMRT Corporation Ltd and e2i (Employment and Employability Institute)

About National Transport Workers' Union

Formed on 7 July 1981, the National Transport Workers' Union (NTWU) represents workers in the transport industry. It looks after the welfare and interests of more than 17,000 bus captains, service leaders, transport engineering staff, rail and station staff, transport services support staff and Jurong Port workers. Together with the National Trades Union Congress, NTWU strives to improve the lives of its members and their families to secure better benefits for the workers it represents. It also promotes lifelong learning and training so that its members can remain employable over time. For more details on NTWU, please visit <http://www.ntwu.org.sg>.

About SBS Transit Ltd

SBS Transit is Singapore's largest public bus operator with more than 250 services and a fleet of close to 2,900 buses. Every day, its buses make 2.3 million passengers trips. It is an innovative and forward-looking operator. It was, for example, the first to introduce the Intelligent Route Information System which tells commuters when their next two buses will arrive at their bus stop and remains the only operator in Singapore to offer wheelchair-accessible services. It continually rolls out new bus routes such as premium services, Nite Owl and Fast Forward services to meet commuters' needs. SBS Transit also operates the North East Line (NEL), the world's first driverless heavy metro system as well as the Light Rail Transit (LRT) system in Sengkang and Punggol. For more details on SBS Transit, please visit <http://www.sbstransit.com.sg/>.

About SMRT Corporation Ltd

SMRT Corporation Ltd is Singapore's premier multi-modal transport service provider offering integrated island-wide transport services. It delivers safe, reliable and friendly travel for commuters through its comprehensive network of 53 MRT stations, the Bukit Panjang Light Rail System, as well as a fleet of over 3,000 taxis and 880 buses. In addition, SMRT leverages its experience and unique strengths to offer maintenance consultancy and project management services for railway systems, as well as commercial and advertising space within its transport infrastructure.

SMRT Buses Ltd operates its fleet from six interchanges. Its truck, feeder and night bus services operate on over 83 service routes and attract a daily ridership of over 760,000 passengers. Bus-Plus Services Pte Ltd operates a fleet of 47 buses that are primarily for charter and chartered services. It offers professional, customised and cost effective transport solutions on an ad-hoc or long-term basis. For more details on SMRT Corporation, please visit <http://www.smrt.com.sg/>.

About e2i (Employment and Employability Institute)

The e2i (Employment and Employability Institute) is a marketplace for employers, jobseekers and training providers. It has a vacancy bank of over 6,000, and helps over 14,000 jobseekers a year to find new and better jobs. To ensure that jobseekers meet the hiring requirements of employers, e2i conducts employment and career coaching, and conducts employability and skills training. e2i serves all segment of workers, from rank and file to professionals, managers, executives and technicians. e2i is an initiative of the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) and supported by the Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA), the Singapore Labour Foundation (SLF), and the Singapore National Employers' Federation (SNEF). The e2i campus is located at 141 Redhill Road and was officially opened in February 2008 by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. For more details on e2i, please visit www.e2i.com.sg.

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Commonly Used Terms

National Trades Union Congress	全国职工总会
National Transport Workers' Union (NTWU)	全国交通工友联合会
e2i (Employment and Employability Institute)	就业与职能培训中心
ComfortDelGro	康福德高企业有限公司
SBS Transit Ltd	新捷运有限公司
SMRT Corporation Ltd	SMRT 企业有限公司
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Mr Kua Hong Pak Managing Director and Group Chief Executive Officer ComfortDelGro	柯逢豹 董事经理/集团总裁 康福德高企业有限公司
Mr Gan Juay Kiat Executive Director SBS Transit Ltd	颜睿杰 执行董事 新捷运有限公司
Ms Saw Phaik Hwa President and Chief Executive Officer SMRT Corporation Ltd	苏碧华 总裁兼首席执行长 SMRT 企业有限公司
Bus Captain	巴士车长
Service Leader	服务车长
Job Re-creation Programme (JRP)	重新改造工作计划
Employability Camp	就业学习营

**JOBS FOR SINGAPOREANS AT FIRST-EVER
JOINT PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS-UNION JOB FAIR**

Description of Job Fair for Bus Captains and Service Leaders

The e2i (Employment and Employability Institute) is working closely with our partners, SBS Transit Ltd (SBST), SMRT Corporation Ltd (SMRT), National Transport Workers' Union (NTWU) to organise a joint public transport job fair on 20 March 2009 to recruit Singaporeans and Singapore Permanent Residents as SBST Bus Captains and SMRT Service Leaders.

The job fair includes two industry previews (held on 11 March 2009 and 16 March 2009) organised by e2i for job seekers to give them a better understanding of the public transport industry, bus driving job nature and career aspects. At the industry previews, representatives from SBST and SMRT were present to share more information about their companies and the bus driving jobs. Interested job seekers were also assessed and screened by e2i's Employability Coaches on their suitability to join the public transport industry.

Suitable job seekers were then shortlisted to attend employability skills training courses like the Workplace Literacy Programmes to enhance their language skills. They also attended a two-day customised Employability Camp (held on 18 and 19 March 2009) conducted by NTUC LearningHub to better prepare them for job interviews with SBS Transit and SMRT at the job fair on 20 March 2009.

Following the job interviews, successful job seekers will undergo one month of in-house training by both public transport operators to prepare them as Bus Captains or Service Leaders. The training topics include driving skills (to obtain Class 4A driving licence), traffic safety and customer service. The trainees are not required to pay any course fees, and will be given a training allowance during the duration of training.
