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SMRT invests \$195 million to replace signalling system on North-South East-West Lines

1. SMRT is investing \$195 million to replace the signalling system on the North-South East-West (NSEW) Lines. The project, which will be completed in phases from 2016, will make it possible for trains to run at an improved frequency of 100 seconds, down from 120 seconds today, reducing waiting time for commuters.
2. The existing signalling system on the NSEW Lines is a "fixed-block" system that divides the tracks into blocks and can detect where a train is when it moves into a new section. For safety reasons, trains must travel at least one signalling block apart from each other. With this existing system, a time gap of at least 120 seconds is required between a train that is leaving a station and the next one that is entering.
3. The new signalling system used will be a "Communications-Based Train Control" system, where a train's precise location and speed are tracked and safety gaps between trains are not based on signal blocks but between trains. Such a system can reduce the time gap between trains entering and exiting stations by 20 seconds, to 100 seconds, during peak periods.
4. This morning, SMRT signed the letter of agreement with Thales Solutions Asia Pte Ltd, the appointed contractor to undertake the project. The replacement work covers more than 100 km of tracks on the NSEW Lines and involves
 - designing of a new signalling system;
 - manufacturing and installing of new signalling equipment;
 - testing and commissioning of the new signalling system at all tracks, stations, trains, depots as well as the Operations Control Centre.
5. SMRT's Executive Vice President for Trains Mr Khoo Hean Siang (SMRT 列车服务执行副总裁, 丘宪祥) said: "This is a massive project on a working line and will involve very close coordination between SMRT, Thales and the authorities. All necessary care will be taken to ensure the work is carried out safely and with minimum inconvenience to commuters." Works will be carried out during non-passenger service hours.

Media Release

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