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Singapore Government

PRESS RELEASE

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SPEECH BY MR PETER SUNG, MINISTER OF STATE FOR NATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS AT THE COMMISSIONING
CEREMONY OF THE GREEN LINK DETERMINING SYSTEM (GLIDE) AT
MNDRC FUNCTION HALL ON 30 NOVEMBER 1988 AT 10.30 AM

The Public Works Department introduced the computer control of traffic signals in the city area for the first time in 1981. This has resulted in a smoother movement of vehicles and fewer stops at traffic signals.

The system the PWD introduced was the state-of-the-art in 1981. However, technology continues to develop and today we are commissioning a new system which incorporates improved technology.

The old system allocated the green times of traffic signals according to the estimated traffic movements. This new system that we are commissioning today, will allocate green time according to actual traffic movements. In other words, the new system will be able to respond to traffic movements and conditions as detected by sensors placed on the roads.

Smoother flow of traffic means a reduction in the consumption of petrol and diesel. PWD estimates the reduction in consumption to be worth \$10 million per annum under the old system. With this new system, further savings will be realised.

With the completion of this new system, Singapore will have one of the most modern traffic control systems in the world. Motorists and pedestrians in the city will find the traffic lights more responsive and sympathetic to their needs. The system will also allow an operator in the

control room to detect faults at traffic lights and traffic congestion. The quick rectification of traffic signal faults will further enhance road safety.

The planning on the first phase of the system costing \$3 million and covering 180 traffic signals in the city area, started in 1985. Today, we are witnessing its completion. This represents about one-fifth of all traffic signals in Singapore. PWD will soon embark on the second phase to bring a further 270 traffic signals under computer control within the next two years.

These traffic management measures reinforce the commitment of the Ministry of National Development to ensure that traffic on our roads flow smoothly and to keep congestion within manageable levels.

With the advances in micro-electronics, optics and information technology, we can expect improved techniques in traffic management. PWD will endeavour to use these latest technological developments to manage our road and traffic conditions. Local contractors can also benefit from such projects by being involved in the installation and subsequent maintenance of these systems.

I congratulate the PWD and the main contractors, Philips Project Development (Singapore) Pte Ltd, and their sub-contractors Philips Traffic Systems (Pte) Ltd and the Road Traffic Authority of Victoria, Australia for the successful completion of the project on time.

We have decided to call the system GLIDE, which stands for Green Link Determining System. We think it is an appropriate acronym because it connotes smoothness in movement, which is what our road users expect.

It gives me great pleasure to declare the GLIDE system officially commissioned. #####