

Dear colleagues,

I hope this email finds you all well.

At the request of Engr. Wasif Nazar Siddiqui, Honorary Secretary of the Association of Consulting Engineers Pakistan (ACEP), please find attached relevant information to their upcoming event on 11 March 2026 from 12:00 – 18:00 (local time) at Koh-i-Noor Hall, Pearl Continental Hotel, The Mall, Lahore, Pakistan.

This event around the Pakistan Railways, with support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), intends to undertake an Early Market Engagement (EME) exercise for the proposed Upgradation of the Karachi Rohri Section (approximately 480 km) of Main Line–1 (ML-1). This Executive Invitation Brief is issued for information and engagement purposes only, to invite interested and capable national and international firms to participate in the upcoming EME event. Detailed technical, commercial, packaging, and procurement information will be presented and discussed during the EME event.

We thank you for your time and kind understanding.

Wishing you a pleasant day.

Stay safe.

Best regards,

Oro

**Oro Cohen** | Senior Membership and Stakeholder Executive

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## Project Snapshot

- ✓ Corridor Length: ~480 km
- ✓ Indicative Cost: ~USD 2.0 billion
- ✓ Upgrade Period: ~3 years
- ✓ Corridor Importance: 76% passenger, 98% freight
- ✓ Strategic Reach: Serves 73% of Pakistan's population and major industrial zones.

## Why ML-1 Matters

The Karachi-Rohri section forms the backbone of Pakistan's railway system—linking ports, industrial clusters, and national logistics corridors. Its upgrading is expected to unlock major freight growth, improve passenger speeds and reliability, enhance safety and resilience, and modernize systems and assets to international standards.

**11 March 2026**

**Koh-i-Noor Hall, Pearl Continental  
Hotel Lahore**

**12:00 PM to 6:00 PM.**

## INDICATIVE SCOPE OF WORKS

At concept stage, the program is expected to include:

- Complete infrastructure upgrades to allow 160km/h speed
- Modern Signaling and telecommunications system
- Enhanced line capacity
- Capacity building and institutional reforms

## INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVES REQUESTED ON

- Market capacity and consortium structures,
- Corridor-scale packaging options,
- Construction methodology
- Systems-integration models,
- Interface risk management,
- Construction under live operations,
- Supply-chain lead times,
- Opportunities for local industries, and
- Climate-resilient and digital solutions.

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE SESSION

The seminar will include:

- project introduction and objectives,
- high-level technical overview,
- early procurement thinking,
- plenary market-sounding dialogue,
- structured polling of industry views, and
- outline of next engagement stages.

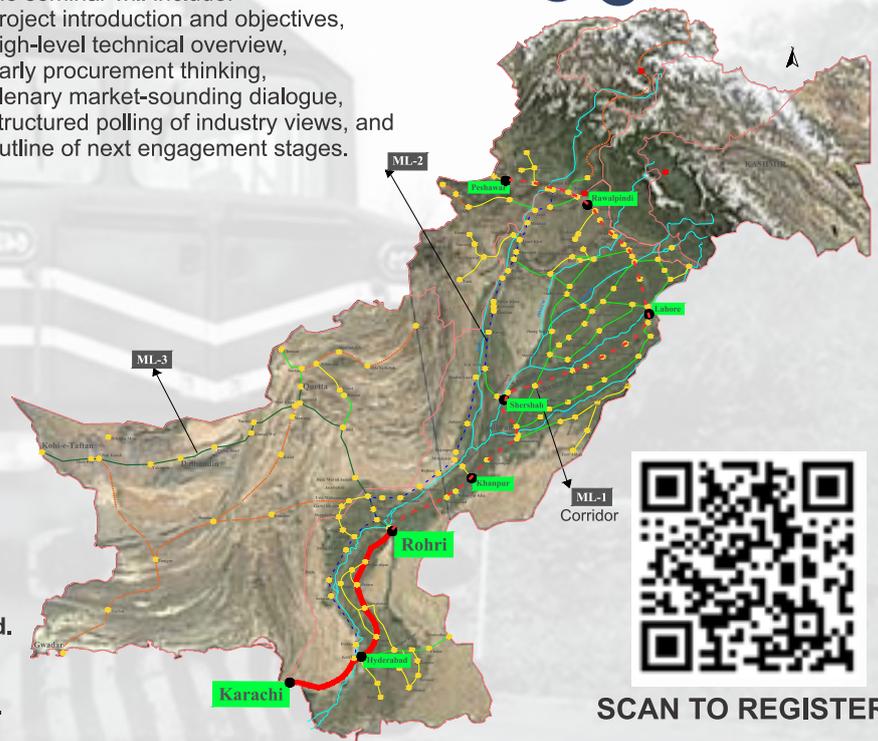
## WHY WE ARE ENGAGING THE MARKET

Pakistan Railways is conducting Stage-1 Early Market Engagement (EME) to:

- Introduce the project concept and likely scale,
  - Understand market appetite and capacity,
  - Explore packaging and delivery strategies,
  - Identify supply-chain constraints and risks,
  - Gather innovation ideas, and
  - Inform future procurement decisions before specifications and bidding documents are prepared.
- This engagement is non-binding and purely exploratory.

## Important Participation Notes

- This is not a procurement process.
- No specifications or tender documents are issued.
- Participation provides no competitive advantage.
- No commitments will be made.
- Discussions will be transparent and documented.



SCAN TO REGISTER

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# **Early Market Engagement (EME) – Executive Invitation Brief**

## **Upgradation of Karachi–Rohri Section (480 km)**

### **Pakistan Railways – Main Line–1 (ML-1)**

#### **1. Introduction**

Pakistan Railways, with support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), intends to undertake an Early Market Engagement (EME) exercise for the proposed Upgradation of the Karachi–Rohri Section (approximately 480 km) of Main Line–1 (ML-1).

This Executive Invitation Brief is issued for information and engagement purposes only, to invite interested and capable national and international firms to participate in the upcoming EME event.

Detailed technical, commercial, packaging, and procurement information will be presented and discussed during the EME event.

#### **2. Purpose of Early Market Engagement**

The EME is being conducted in accordance with ADB Procurement Policy and associated procurement directives, with the following objectives:

- To inform the market about the project concept, scale, and anticipated delivery approach
- To obtain non-binding feedback from the market on key aspects of project structuring and delivery
- To assess market interest, capacity, and potential risks prior to initiating any formal procurement
- To support improved project readiness and value for money

Participation in the EME is voluntary, non-binding, and does not form part of any procurement process.

Participation or non-participation will not provide any advantage or disadvantage in any future procurement.

#### **3. Project Overview (High-Level)**

The proposed project involves the upgradation of the existing double-line broad gauge railway corridor between Karachi and Rohri to allow 160 Km/hr train speed, with an approximate route length of 480 km.

The Karachi–Rohri section constitutes Phase-1 of the ML-1 upgradation program and is considered critical for improving rail capacity, operational efficiency, safety, and reliability.

The current EME relates exclusively to the Karachi–Rohri section. Other sections of ML-1 are outside the scope of this engagement and are not expected to be taken up in the near term.

#### **4. Indicative Scope of Works (Summary)**

At a high level, the project is expected to include:

- Upgradation of track and formation to support higher speeds and axle loads
- Rehabilitation and construction of bridges and culverts
- Installation of modern signaling and telecommunications systems
- Selected grade separation and safety enhancement works
- Station rebuilding and associated facilities

All works are expected to be executed under live railway operating conditions.

The detailed scope, quantities, packaging options, sequencing, and implementation strategy will be presented during the EME event.

## **5. Indicative Scale and Timeline**

- Indicative Project Cost: In the order of USD 2 billion
- Indicative Construction Period: Approximately 3 years
- Detailed Engineering Design (DED):
  - Currently in progress
  - Scheduled for completion in March 2026

All figures and timelines are indicative and subject to refinement.

## **6. Procurement Outlook (Indicative)**

Subject to required approvals and financing arrangements:

- Procurement of Project Management and Construction Supervision Consultant (PMCSC) services and construction works contracts is currently envisaged in 2026.
- All procurement will be carried out in accordance with ADB Procurement Policy and Regulations.

Market feedback received during the EME may inform:

- Packaging and sequencing of works
- Contract sizing and duration
- Risk allocation and delivery approach

## **7. Focus of the EME Event**

The EME event will provide an opportunity for dialogue on:

- Packaging and phasing options
- Construction under live railway operations
- Contract structuring and delivery timelines
- Key technical, operational, and commercial risks
- Joint venture and localization considerations

All substantive project information will be disclosed during the EME event to ensure equal access to information.

## 8. Disclaimer

This document is issued solely for the purpose of Early Market Engagement. It does not constitute a request for expressions of interest, prequalification, or bids, nor does it create any commitment to procure. Information contained herein is indicative and subject to change without notice.

## 9. Event Schedule

**Date:** 11 March 2026  
**Time:** 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM  
**Mode/Venue:** Koh-i-Noor Hall, Pearl Continental Hotel, The Mall, Lahore

The interested firms may confirm participation by submitting company details and representative information by registering at the link or scanning the QR code:

Link: <https://forms.gle/JMra7HWcoGkSLbANA>

QR Code:

