

## Roy Reynolds

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## Vectus Newsletter

**September 2009**

### **The first PRT initiative in Korea announced**

On September 25, 2009, an MOU to build an eco-friendly transportation solution has been signed in Seoul, Korea, between POSCO ([www.posco.com](http://www.posco.com)), a Korean steel giant, and the Municipal government of Suncheon City, south of Korea. Suncheon City has expressed its excitement to be the first city in Asia to install a PRT (Personal Rapid Transit) system, and in doing so, gaining world recognition and admiration for its contribution to the preservation of the environment and an international leader in eco-city planning that incorporates cutting edge technology that is environmentally friendly.



Mayor of Suncheon City (left) & President of POSCO (right)

Suncheon City is known for its beautiful natural assets and well- preserved eco-system, especially for the costal wetland listed as one of the Wetlands of

International Importance in the Ramsar List. There are aggressive plans to further develop eco-tourism around the Suncheon Wetland area to enhance the protection of the Wetland and at the same time to efficiently serve the increasing number of tourists. Most of the facilities such as car parks and visitor centres will be moved inland and the access to the Suncheon Wetland will be provided exclusively by VECTUS PRT.



Vectus staff visiting Wetland area and Suncheon City officials

Suncheon City has recently been awarded the right to host the 2013 International Garden Expo, an official world event sanctioned by the International Association of Horticultural Producers. This event will be held adjacent to the Suncheon Wetlands, thereby substantially increasing the number of visitors to the area during the 6 months event. After the event, the facilities will be incorporated with the Wetland park's amenities, thereby ensuring continued and steady tourist volumes that will utilize the PRT system.



Suncheon Bay: View from the Dragon Mountain

The basic PRT layout will be to connect the new visitor centre, which will be built next to the Garden Expo site, and the entrance to the Wetland area. The extension of this 5 km PRT network to be served by about 40 vehicles for covering the new Suncheon railway station and city centre will be further considered as a next step.

Mr. Kwan Kyu ROH, Mayor of Suncheon City, commented "The Suncheon Wetlands is a world-renowned eco-tourist attraction visited by 3 million people annually. While serving

the transportation needs of these visitors, we also wanted to preserve the natural beauty of the Wetlands. After vigorous evaluation of all transportation systems, we have chosen VECTUS PRT for its efficiency, safety and eco-friendly elements. With the city hosting the International Garden Expo in 2013, this 5km PRT line will soon be expanded to connect with the newly built Central Train Station and the city's downtown." He further said, "Currently, all the visitors with no exception come by car into the Wetland Park, thereby causing pollution and damaging our precious wetlands. People are not the only visitor to the Suncheon Coastal Wetlands. 25 endangered species of migratory birds drop in year round. We will now move the car park inland and have the visitors ride the eco-friendly PRT system into the wetlands, thereby eliminating all modes of pollution and noise from the park."

POSCO along with other financial investors, under close cooperation with Suncheon city, will set up a special purpose company (SPC) to procure and operate the PRT system on a BOT (Build Operate Transfer) basis . Start of detailed planning (+ basic design) will be this year. Main contract signing and the start of detailed design is planned to be within the 1st half of 2010,

### **Test Track Development**

The planned period of testing and experience operation at the test track is reaching its end. The system has now been operating for more than 2000 hours. Performance of the in-track LIM propulsion has been impeccable, with zero faults.



3 vehicles diverging one after another last winter

The control system performance has been verified and is very satisfying with a clean safety record. Winter tests were also very successful. Activities at the test track will now focus on supporting the development of the next generation of vehicle and track.

Over the last 9 months there have been a large number of delegations from all over the world visiting Vectus, and this has provided very valuable feedback.



Vectus vehicle at exhibition & Visitors at the test track

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