**Train operator MTR Express to be the main partner of KTH students’ Hyperloop project**

**The rail challenger MTR Express opens the door to a future on completely different tracks by signing up as the main partner of KTH Hyperloop, an ambitious project by a student team from KTH to develop a Hyperloop pod. The target is to compete with the pod in the 2020 edition of Elon Musk’s Hyperloop Pod Competition in Hawthorne, California.**

**KTH Hyperloop was founded in April 2018 by Vivek Anand under supervision from** Professor Mikael Nybacka **at the Royal Institute of Technology with the ambition of becoming one of the competing teams in the prestigious competition Hyperloop Pod Competition in Hawthorne, California founded by Elon Musk and SpaceX. By doing this, KTH Hyperloop hopes to contribute to develop “the fifth mode of transport” in Scandinavia by designing and building a scaled Hyperloop pod.**

**The idea of Hyperloopwas initiated by Elon Musk in 2013, and is the concept of a levitating pod-like vehicle traveling at speeds of up to 1200 km/h inside a tube in near-vacuum conditions. If implemented in Sweden, Hyperloop would allow Stockholmers to commute to Gothenburg, Malmö or Helsinki in less than 30 minutes, while reducing environmental impact along the way.**

* **The development of our Hyperloop pod is already under progress! Also getting our Hyperloop pod design validated by SpaceX and making into the top 50 teams out of 600+ teams globally for the SpaceX Hyperloop Pod Competition 2019 was a huge achievement. As we speak our proposed hyperloop pod design is taking shape at ITRL, KTH and is expected to be fully functional by the end of this year. Kudos to MTR Express for giving us the huge support we need for developing the first hyperloop pod of Sweden, says Vivek Anand, Team Lead KTH Hyperloop**

**For MTR Express, that have contributed with a number of innovations in Swedish rail, the project is an opportunity to contribute to the continued development of sustainable travel technology in Sweden and globally.**

* When we got the question from the KTH-team we knew right away that this was something we wanted to be a part of. Hyperloop is still a new and untested technology but its potential is very exciting. We really look forward to being part of this project and support the team in developing this travel mode of the future, says Mats Johannesson, CEO at MTR Express.

**Now, KTH Hyperloop aims to be one of the competing teams in the 2020 edition of the competition. By fostering interdisciplinary cooperation and involving major actors from the transport industry in Sweden, KTH Hyperloop hopes to speed up the implementation of a full-scale Hyperloop system in Europe.**

**MTR Express and KTH Hyperloop have entered a long collaboration, where MTR Express will contribute financially to enable the development of the pod. You will be able to follow the process on MTR Express’s Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.**