

RM900mil loans for maritime industry

Bank Pembangunan aims to spearhead growth of the sector

KUALA LUMPUR: Bank Pembangunan Malaysia Bhd expects to approve loans totalling RM900mil for the maritime sector this year, according to group services vice-president Aladdin Mohd Lip.

He said the bank aimed to spearhead the development of the maritime sector, particularly in the oil and gas sector.

"Up to October (this year), we have approved more than RM650mil for the sector, which has a total portfolio of RM1.4bil," he said after the signing ceremony of *Bai Bithaman Ajil* loan facility of RM18.2mil to Ageo Marine Sdn Bhd yesterday.

He said the bank anticipated its total portfolio to reach RM1.7bil by year-end.

Bank Pembangunan is a development financial institution supporting the country's strategic sectors, such as infrastructure, maritime and high technology.

"Infrastructure is the biggest sector that contributed about 88% to our total loan portfolio of RM17bil (for all sectors) to date," Aladdin said.

It was estimated that there were 253 offshore oil and gas platforms in the upstream sector, and they presented great opportunities to the offshore support vessels and services companies, he said.

Ageo Marine is a subsidiary of integrated geosolution and engineering specialist Orogenic Holdings Sdn Bhd.

Orogenic executive chairman Ahmad Ziyad Elias said the loan facility was to part finance the purchase of its first vessel costing RM30mil.

The vessel, due for completion in May

2008, will be used by Asian Geos Sdn Bhd, another Orogenic unit, for offshore geotechnical drilling and sampling works.

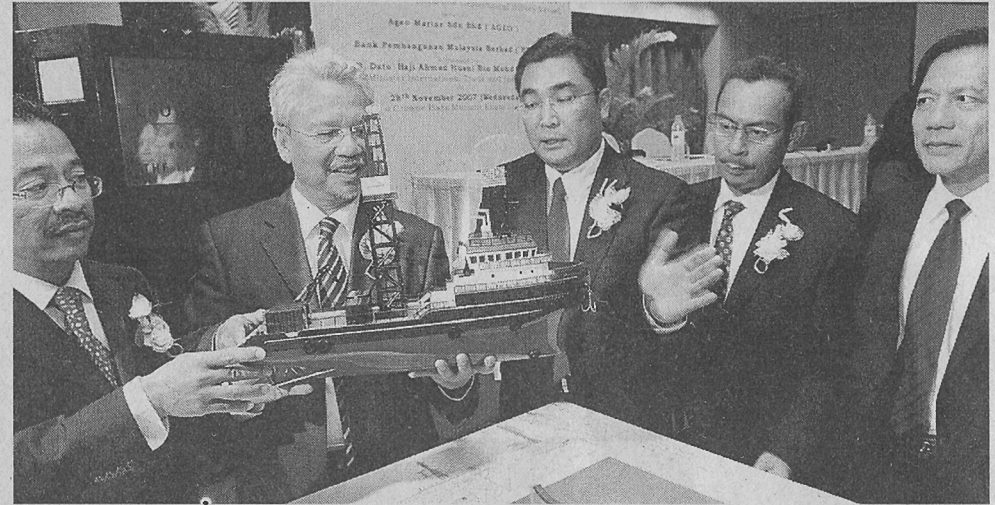
"We plan to purchase a similar vessel costing about RM30mil next year. We do not discount obtaining another loan facility from Bank Pembangunan," Ziyad said.

The group was currently bidding for projects worth a total of about RM300mil, he said, adding that it now had an order book worth RM200mil.

The group, which has been servicing major oil companies in South-East Asia, the Middle East, India, Turkmenistan, China and South Korea, is now penetrating Europe.

"We anticipate our group revenue to increase from RM120mil in the financial year ended Aug 31 (FY07) to RM156mil in FY08," Ziyad said, adding that 40% of the revenue in FY07 was from overseas.

According to Ziyad, the group expects to record annual revenue of RM239mil in five years.



From left: Orogenic director Ir Shahabudin Yusof, deputy International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Ahmad Husni Mohd Hanadzlah, Ageo Marine MD Dr Ir Mohd Helmi Zulkawi, Ahmad Ziyad Elias and Aladdin Mohamed Lip