



HSL 'scores' in Tg Manis

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KUCHING (Friday): Sarawak-based infrastructure and marine engineering specialist Hock Seng Lee Berhad (HSL) has secured a new project in Tanjung Manis bringing the total value of projects in hand in that town alone to over RM300 million.

The latest contract, part of the multimillion ringgit Halal Hub development at Tanjung Manis, was procured in an open tender exercise and will involve road, drainage and associated works.

The RM47.1 million road starts at Serdeng Junction and passes through Bandar Baru Tanjung Manis, the Halal Park and Kampung Rajang, Mukah Division, Sarawak.

The route will traverse low-lying coastal terrain and involves two reinforced concrete bridges and several culverts over minor waterways.

The swampy soil conditions will also necessitate extensive reclamation and geotechnical engineering works including use of a significant amount of geotextile fabric and piling.

The contract period for the project will be 24 months with the date of site possession scheduled for 26 August 2010.

"Winning this bid in open tender shows that we remain highly competitive when it comes to marine engineering works and that we have a strong presence in the developing region of Tanjung Manis in Central Sarawak which is a pivotal part of SCORE (the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy)," said HSL Group Managing Director Dato Paul Yu Chee Hoe.

HSL's other ongoing works in Tanjung Manis include reclamation, earthworks, drainage and infrastructure works for a Ship Building Industrial Zone in Buan Land District as well as related industrial parks and road upgrading works.

"We expect the new contract to contribute positively to Group bottom line and further advance our sound progress this year and next," said HSL's Managing Director Dato Paul Yu Chee Hoe.

HSL, has been active in infrastructure and construction projects in Tanjung Manis since 1995 having completed works for a sea port, deep sea fishing port, airport, industrial park and township.

Once primarily considered the downstream centre for logging operators, the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) has made great strides in developing Tanjung Manis town which is blessed with a natural deep water harbour.

Besides value-added timber processing, it is evolving into an important focal point for ship fabrication, marine transportation and the biotech production and processing of food (particularly seafood) products for export.

The government has expressed a commitment to put in place the infrastructure, including roads and utilities, to enable the development of the Halal Hub at Tanjung Manis to serve the huge Muslim market in the Asia-Pacific region.

As the Halal Hub develops, HSL anticipates further job opportunities which draw on the group's core strengths in the marine and civil engineering fields.

HSL's future also looks bright due to other projects under SCORE taking off.

A current crop of tenders were for access roads into the interior locations of the SCORE region including to the proposed hydro-dams of Baram, Limbang and Baleh.

"We closed around a dozen substantial tender bids in the last month with values ranging from around RM45 million to RM200 million, so we are confident of adding further to our order book before year-end," added Dato Paul Yu.

Projects secured so far in 2010 are worth RM262 million and the total value of projects in hand for HSL now stands at RM1.85 billion of which RM1.14 billion is outstanding.

"We enjoy a niche market position in marine engineering and related infrastructure works and therefore the surge in construction activity in Sarawak continues to fuel our dynamic growth," said Dato Paul Yu.

HSL Group's half yearly results for 2010 are expected to be announced next week.

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Based in Sarawak, East Malaysia, Hock Seng Lee Group is involved in marine engineering, civil engineering, building construction and property development.

HSL is listed on Bursa Malaysia's Construction Counter (stock code 6238, Bloomberg code HSL MK).

For further information see: www.hsl.com.my