

NAKILAT and Keppel team up to develop world-class shipyard in Qatar

Qatar Gas Transport Company Ltd. (NAKILAT) has joined forces with Keppel O&M to develop a world-class shipyard in the Port of Ras Laffan, Qatar.

This agreement, which was sealed through Keppel O&M's subsidiary, KS Investments, is a landmark partnership between NAKILAT, the world's leading transporter of LNG and Keppel, a global leader in the offshore and marine industry respectively.

The proposed shipyard will be part of the massive expansion of the Port of Ras Laffan in the Arabian Gulf, and is expected to begin operations in 2010.

Muhammad A. Ghannam, MD of NAKILAT, said, "In our negotiations and through visits to Keppel's shipyards in Singapore, we found the overall culture

of Keppel, their best practices and business operations to be a good fit with our vision for the new shipyard. Keppel has very high standards of professionalism and commitment to service excellence which we appreciate.

"Our vision is for the new shipyard to become a centre of excellence for the repair and maintenance of LNG carriers, thereby securing a strategically important link in the supply chain of natural gas from wellhead to consumer."

CH Tong said, "This business venture is in line with our 'Near Market, Near Customer' strategy to be close to our customers so that we can better serve them.

"We will replicate our proven management system in the new shipyard, and leverage the resources of our global

network of yards and commercial agents to ensure success of this joint venture with NAKILAT."

NAKILAT-Keppel Offshore & Marine Ltd, an 80/20 joint venture company (JVC) between NAKILAT and KS Investments respectively, will manage the design, construction and operation of the 43-hectare shipyard built on reclaimed land.

The new facility will be designed and constructed in accordance with best international practices. It will be suitable for the repair and maintenance of very large LNG carriers and a wide range of other vessels, as well as the conversion of tankers to FPSO and FSO facilities.

Qatar Petroleum (QP) will fund the reclamation of the land and construction of the yard's infrastructure, which include two drydocks, quays, buildings and utilities distribution networks. QP will lease the infrastructure to the JVC.

The JVC will fund the shipyard's mobile equipment, such as the floating dock, cranes and workshop machinery, and provide cash for operations.

The shipyard can be expanded for the construction of specialised small ships (such as offshore supply vessels), fabrication of structures for the offshore oil and gas industry (such as jackup drilling rigs, process modules and decks, jackets, wellhead decks and flare booms), as well as the fabrication of components for land-based petrochemical and industrial plant. The facility will also provide life-cycle support to all the markets it serves.



Sealing a firm partnership – (from left) Muhammad A. Ghannam, Nelson Yeo, ED of Keppel Shipyard, CB Choo and CH Tong