

SINGAPORE: Metax Engineering acquires stake in palm oil biofuel engineering firm

(EnergyAsia, April 3, Thursday) --- Metax Engineering Corporation Limited, a Singapore environmental engineering company listed on the SGX Catalist exchange, said it has completed the acquisition of a 40% stake in WS Bio, a firm which owns a majority controlling stake in Oiltek.

The stake was held by Wong Seong, the main shareholder of WS Bio. Metax will pay an amount based on WS Bio's earnings for the year ended June 30, 2008.

WS Bio is a Singapore-incorporated company whose principal business is in the engineering and construction of palm refining facilities, nutrient extraction facilities and biofuel refining facilities. WS Bio also owns a majority controlling stake in Oiltek.

Oiltek, which has over 25 years of experience, has been serving the edible oil processing industry throughout Asia, Africa and Central America. The firm engineers, procures and constructs facilities meant to extract oil and nutrients from fruits of plants such as oil palm.

Specifically, it provides a full range of customised solutions, which include complete edible oil refining plants, improvement to production system in existing refining operations as well as individual components of refining plants, like heat exchangers, heating system, and tower packing.

Plants designed by Oiltek are in operation in more than a dozen countries throughout Asia (in countries such as Malaysia, India, Indonesia, Thailand, Phillipines, Bangladesh and Vietnam), Africa (in countries such as Nigeria, Kenya, Egypt, Tanzania and Zaire) and Central America (in countries such as Costa Rica and Honduras).

Metax Engineering expects to benefit financially from having a profitable biofuel and palm oil engineering firm to boost its bottom line.

It also expects to gain access to additional business opportunities by taking on the engineering, procurement and construction of integral facilities such as power generation, steam generation, water and waste water treatment plants as well as oil tank farm facilities.

Tan Tze Wen, managing director of Metax Engineering, said: "We have been building a stable base of projects around our core water treatment and hydro-engineering capabilities. But it is also important to look beyond our traditional business segment to accelerate our growth. We believe that this acquisition will be the first step towards that objective."