

22 MAY 2002

MAHATHIR-MISC

DR MAHATHIR NAMES MISC NEWEST LNG TANKER PUTERI INTAN SATU.

KUALA LUMPUR, May 22 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today officially named Malaysia International Shipping Corporation Bhd's (MISC) 14th and newest LNG tanker, Puteri Intan Satu, at the Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd's (MHI) Koyagi Shipyard in Nagasaki, Japan.

Puteri Intan Satu is the first of six new Puteri Satu class LNG tankers that had been ordered by MISC as part of its fleet expansion programme which will further reaffirm its position as the single largest owner and operator of LNG tankers in the world, said MISC in a statement here today.

MISC's chairman, Tan Sri Mohd Hassan Marican, and managing director and chief executive officer, Datuk Mohd Ali Haji Yasin, were present at the ceremony. MHI's chairman, Nobuyuki Masuda, was also present.

Puteri Intan Satu, with a capacity of 137,100 cubic metres, will undergo sea trials before being delivered in August this year.

The coming into service of the new tanker will enable MISC, a subsidiary of PETRONAS, to further enhance its capability and flexibility to provide safe and reliable LNG transportation for its customers.

Equipped with the latest state-of-the-art distributed control system (DCS) for the control and monitoring of cargo and machinery operations, Puteri Intan Satu has also been specially designed and built so as to be able to operate at all major LNG terminals in the world.

Upon delivery, Puteri Intan Satu will be the first of the Puteri Satu class of tankers that will be fully manned by Malaysians who have been trained under MISC's Cadet Training Programme.

In addition, Puteri Intan Satu has also recorded another first, in terms of local content, with the use of Malaysian plywood in the production of its cargo tank insulation boxes.

The boxes form part of a critical and specialised component of the LNG tanks.

The naming ceremony today marks an important milestone in the growth of MISC, particularly in the LNG transportation sector since the company's delivery of the first shipment of LNG from Bintulu to Tokyo Gas' Sodegaura Terminal in February 1983.

From an initial fleet of only five vessels under the Tenaga series, MISC has now expanded its LNG fleet to 13 with a gross capacity of 1.36 million cubic metres, making it the single largest LNG fleet owner and operator in the world.

This represents about 10 percent of the total world capacity.

The company has to-date made over 2,800 LNG cargo deliveries with a combined total of over 150 million tonnes.

With the delivery of all the new six Puteri Satu Class tankers by 2005, MISC's LNG transportation capacity will be increased by 60 percent to 2.18 million cubic metres.

Of the six new tankers, three are being built by MHI in Nagasaki while three others are being built by Mitsui Engineering & Shipbuilding in Chiba.

-- BERNAMA

LES KTC