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MISC affirms aggressive drive with new tanker

MALAYSIA International Shipping Corp (MISC) yesterday added a liquefied natural gas (LNG) tanker, the Puteri Intan Satu, to its fleet.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad officially named the MISC's 14th and newest LNG tanker in Koyagi Shipyard in Nagasaki yesterday.

In a statement, MISC said the LNG tanker is the first of the six Puteri Satu class LNG tankers ordered 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.

According to MISC chairman Tan Sri Mohd Hassan Marican, the move is vital as the company has embarked on an aggressive programme to widen its LNG transportation trading worldwide.

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

Puteri Intan Satu, with a capacity of 137,000 cu m, will undergo sea trials before being delivered in August.

The coming into service of the new tanker will enable MISC, a subsidiary of Petroliam Nasional Bhd, to 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 been specially designed and built to enable it to operate at all major LNG terminals in the world.

In addition, the tanker 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, according to MISC, marked a milestone in the growth of MISC, particularly in LNG transportation, 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 cu m, making it the single largest LNG fleet owner and operator in the world.

This represents about 10 per cent of the total world capacity. The company has to date made more than 2,800 LNG cargo deliveries with a combined total of over 150 million tonnes.

With the delivery of the six Puteri Satu Class tankers by 2005, MISC's LNG transportation capacity will be increased by 60 per cent to 2.18 million cu m.

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