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SHIP-MISC

PUTERI SATU CLASS LNG TANKER TO BE FULLY MANNED BY MALAYSIANS

By: Siti Hawa Othman

NAGASAKI, May 22 (Bernama) -- Puteri Intan Satu, which was officially named by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad here today, will be the first of the Puteri Satu Class of tankers to be fully manned by Malaysians.

These Malaysians have been trained under the Malaysia International Shipping Corporation Bhd's cadet training programme.

MISC chairman an Sri Mohd Hassan Marican said in his address during the naming ceremony that Petronas had set a target in 1994 to have the first Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) tanker fully manned and operated by Malaysians by 2002.

MISC is a subsidiary of national oil corporation, Petronas, in which Hassan is also president and chief executive officer.

Hassan said Hull No. 2165 (ship's number) was the first in the series of six new LNG tankers ordered by MISC.

The six tankers will be delivered on a staggered basis from September 2002 to March 2005.

Three of these tankers are being built by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd here at Koyagi Works in Nagasaki and the other three are being built by Mitsui Engineering and Shipbuilding in Chiba.

Hassan said this was the first time that MISC had awarded the contract to build LNG tankers of this class to Japanese shipyards.

The tanker has been designed for worldwide trading capability so as to be able to call at all major LNG terminals in the world.

The coming into service of its new and 14th tanker in the MISC LNG fleet would enhance the company's capability towards realising its vision to be preferred provider of world class maritime transportation and logistics services, Hassan said.

Up to the end of April this year, MISC had safely delivered 2,892 cargoes amounting to about 153 million tonnes of LNG on time to its customers, he said. -- BERNAMA

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