

KNM gets German certification for welding

By OUR REPORTER

LOCAL vessel and equipment manufacturer, KNM Steel Construction Sdn Bhd (KNM) created history for being the first Malaysian company to receive a German certification for quality welding.

The company received the certification from TUV Sueddeutschland for the German Code of Practice, AD-Merkblatt HP-O and TRD201, in conjunction with EN 729-2 yesterday.

According to a press release issued by KNM, AD-Merkblatt benefits manufacturers not only to fabricate high quality vessels but also to keep it at low costs.

Prior to this, KNM was also accredited the ISO 9001 by ABS Quality Evaluations Inc of the US and the ASME U and U2 Stamps by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in 1997.

KNM president Lee Swee Eng said with the international accreditations, the company expects its export sales to increase between 20 and 30 per cent more from the present 40 per cent.

"This was far better achievements than four years ago when the company's export orders contributed only 5 per cent of its annual turnover," he told newsmen at the presentation of the German accreditation in Petaling Jaya yesterday.

Since its inception in 1959, Lee said KNM has grown by leaps and bounds from being just a small pressure vessel manufacturer to a leading process equipment manufacturers, with three manufacturing plants in Malaysia, namely Malacca, Gebeng and Kerteh.

He said KNM's vision to be an international player in the field of process equipment for the oil and gas industry has finally become a reality following the accreditations given to the company.

"Its investment in the state of the art machineries and techniques have given itself a competitive edge not only in Malaysia but also at international level," he said.

In line with KNM's philosophy of developing expertise, Lee said a team of engineers has introduced a new revolutionary method of testing pressure vessels during manufacturing.

The first in Malaysia, he said this state-of-the-art, non-destructive method, termed "Time of Flight Diffraction" uses ultrasonic techniques saving valuable time, without stoppage of works.

Other innovations include the non-traditional post weld heat treatment on sand; a method where the vessels sits on a sand bed and is turned into a self-contained furnace once it is completely insulated.

On its achievements, Lee said the company has manufactured one of the world's heaviest and tallest pressure vessels last year for one of Petronas petrochemical plants in Kuantan.

The company also scored another first with the successful completion of the world's largest column-free stadium roof for the 100,000-capacity National Stadium in Bukit Jalil, the main venue for the 16th Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur.