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32 ► BIZNEWS

PKFZ facility a boost for Aker Kvaerner

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NORWEGIAN oil and gas industry equipment maker Aker Kvaerner ASA's new integrated production facility at Port Klang Free Zone (PKFZ), next to Westports in Pulau Indah, is expected to be ready in April 2007.

The US\$100 million (RM365 million) facility, whose construction began in February 2006, will be able to make the entire range of products for the sector at a single location to fulfill regional and global demand for Aker Kvaerner's offerings.

"The integrated subsea hub will enable the entire range of equipment and services for the growing number of deepwater projects in the region to be provided from one single point.

"The hub is not only important for us in South-East Asia, but also our activities around the world," Aker Kvaerner executive vice-president Raymond Carlsen told reporters in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.



(From left) Carlsen, Aker Kvaerner adviser Inge K. Hansen and company president Egil Martinussen at the press conference yesterday.

Aker Kvaerner whose offerings include subsea equipment and systems, drilling risers, besides manifolds and structures, will occupy 27.6ha of open land at the 400ha PKFZ.

Its Malaysian unit is currently engaged in the Murphy Oil Kikeh Development project off the coast of

Sabah, besides supplying subsea structures to India's Reliance Industries Ltd.

In terms of production capacity, Carlsen said the hub, upon completion, will be able to make up to 100 units of subsea Christmas trees per year, but the manufacturer will initially produce some 50 units per year due to in-

sufficient trained manpower.

Subsea Christmas trees are valves which control the flow of oil and gas derived from offshore operations.

As a result of Aker Kvaerner's expansion in Malaysia, the group's workforce of some 500 employees here is expected to double by 2008.