

Press Clipping

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New shipping hub ready next month

A NEW Malaysian shipping hub will open next month to help international companies operating in the South-East Asian nation manufacture and export their products more efficiently.

The Port Klang Free Zone in Malaysia's key western harbour district recently underwent successful power supply tests and is finishing its landscaping and road construction, officials representing the zone said in a statement.

The 400ha site has been touted as Malaysia's first free zone to combine shipping logistics activities, such as labelling and packaging, with factories and industrial manufacturing operations.

Norwegian oil and gas engineering group Aker Kvaerner ASA is the first investor in the zone.

It plans to invest up to RM400 million to build a manufacturing centre to support oil and gas exploration in the Asia Pacific, the

statement said.

"We have had many more successful discussions and are in the midst of finalising agreements with potential tenants," said Noel Gulliver, the zone's general manager.

Incentives for companies based at the hub — modelled after Dubai's Jebel Ali Free Zone — include tax exemptions and research incentives, it said.

The statement didn't reveal the exact date for the site's opening. — AP