

MPA signs S\$2.4b deal for first phase of Tuas Terminal

Contract awarded to joint venture between Belgian firm Dredging Int'l Asia Pacific and South Korea's Daelim Industrial

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THE Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) has inked a S\$2.42 billion deal to develop the first phase of the Tuas Terminal, it said in a statement on Thursday.

The contract was awarded to a joint venture (JV) between Belgian firm Dredging International Asia Pacific and South Korea's Daelim Industrial. The JV will also tap local firms' capabilities, the authority said.

Senior Minister of State for Finance and Transport Josephine Teo noted in a speech on Thursday that the project includes reclaiming 294 hectares of land, which is larger than the Brani, Keppel and Tanjong Pagar terminals combined.

The project is expected to be completed by December 2020, an MPA spokesman said.

When the Tuas Terminal is completed, it is expected to be able to handle up to 65 million containers – known in industry parlance as 20-foot equivalent units or TEUs – per year, nearly twice the Singapore port's container throughput volume in 2014, the MPA said in its statement.

Speaking at the MPA's inaugural Singapore Maritime Technology Conference, Mrs Teo also said that the MPA would pump more funds into research and green technology.

The MPA will launch in June a series of calls for proposals under its S\$150 million Maritime Innovation and Technology Fund to cover new areas for potential research and testing innovative technology, she said.

The fund was set up in 2003 to fund and support R&D and the testing of maritime technologies by universities, research institutes and companies in Singapore.

The port authority will also extend its Green Technology Programme by another five years until 2021, and pump in another S\$25 million to bring the total funding to S\$50 million, Mrs Teo said, adding that MPA will raise the co-funding level to up to 70 per cent for the adoption of green technologies that are developed or tested locally.

The programme has benefited 17 companies and 58 Singapore-flagged ships through the introduction of technological improvements to reduce emissions and make the mari-



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time sector more environmentally sustainable, she said.

Mrs Teo also said that MPA will work with other partners to drive innovation. It will extend its agreement with the Research Council of Norway to promote collaboration in maritime research for another three years, until 2018.

Norway and Singapore plan to jointly launch the first international call for proposals in maritime research and have set aside S\$6 million for good ideas in navigational safety, ship operations and safety, ship-port operations and Arctic shipping, she said.

MPA will also sign a memorandum of understanding with the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*Star), which will let the authority tap the agency's expertise and its ties with research institutes and universities.

The Singapore Maritime Technology Conference was part of the 10th annual Singapore Maritime Week, which included other events such as the Sea Asia maritime convention and the Singapore Shipping Forum, which was held on Thursday by accounting firm Moore Stephens and BNP Paribas.

Minister for Transport Lui Tuck Yew, who is also Second Minister for Defence, said at the opening of Sea Asia on Tuesday that when fully operational at the end of 2017, Pasir Panjang Terminal Phases 3 and 4 will increase Singapore's port capacity by more than 40 per cent to around 50 million TEUs.