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ENERGY



The co-generation gas-fired power plant is in Banpong district, Ratchaburi province.

Egco powers up 256MW Banpong plant

POST REPORTERS ^{B3}

SET-listed Electricity Generating Plc (Egco) kicked off operations at its Banpong power plant on Oct 1, give a further charge to Thailand's second-largest private power producer in terms of capacity.

President and chief executive Jakgrich Pibulpairoj said Banpong is a co-generation gas-fired power plant. The facility is forecast to start generating revenue in the fourth quarter.

"Banpong power plant's co-generation system supports efficient fuel consumption, which enhances the country's power security," said Mr Jakgrich.

The plant is located in Ratchaburi province and consists of two units with gross electricity output of 256 megawatts. Each

unit has total installed capacity of 128MW, comprising two gas turbines producing 44MW each and a 40MW steam turbine.

The power plant will sell 180MW of output to the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand under a 25-year power purchasing agreement for small power plants. The remaining output and steam from the power-generating process will be sold to industrial users.

Egco is also in talks to acquire stakes in other power projects both at home and abroad. The company aims to conclude three major business deals in Asean for greenfield development and asset acquisition this year.

The three deals comprise two greenfield projects in Laos and Vietnam and an asset acquisition in Indonesia.

The deals cover both fossil fuel- and renewable-based power-generating projects.

But the company declined to give a time frame for the conclusion of the deals, saying most of them were dependent on the decisions of foreign governments.

Egco reported it has 28 power plants across the Asia-Pacific region, with total capacity set to rise to 4,572MW by year-end, up from 4,352MW as of July.

Egco posted a net profit of 6.5 billion baht in the first half of this year, up 41% from the same period of last year, when it had a net profit of 4.6 billion.

EGCO shares closed yesterday on the Stock Exchange of Thailand at 231 baht, down three baht, in trade worth 267.3 million baht.