

BERG PROPULSION OPENS FIRST ASIAN PRODUCTION FACILITY IN SINGAPORE

ASMI member, BERG Propulsion International Pte Ltd has announced the opening of its new production facility in Tuas, Singapore. The new plant is the BERG Propulsion's (BERG) first outside its home base in Sweden and in South East Asia.

The new 10,000-sq metre plant is part of BERG's overall production expansion plans to meet growing global customer demand. This new facility is expected to allow BERG to more than double its output and to meet the requirements of their growing

customer base. With the new plant, BERG hopes to reinforce its position as one of the leading manufacturers of controllable pitch propellers for the marine industry.

The plant is specially designed for the construction of larger propellers, which BERG's plant in Sweden is currently unable to manufacture. The company will also be producing transverse thrusters used for vessel maneuvering at the new facility. BERG expects the Tuas facility to operate at full capacity by 2010 with some 200 employees. It will have about 90

employees working at the plant initially and these will comprise precision machinists, engineers and support staff.

Singapore was chosen by BERG as its first production site outside of Sweden for its favourable market environment, readily available pool of talent and a quality reputation. BERG's expansion plans in Singapore include investments of up to US\$47.5 million over the next five years. This sum includes state-of-the-art precision manufacturing equipment to ensure consistently high quality products.



The new production facility in Singapore will play a vital role in BERG's global growth strategy.

LAUNCH OF OFFICE-AT-SEA @ SINGTEL

ASMI member, Singapore Telecommunications Limited (SingTel) has launched its latest global maritime broadband service, Office-at-Sea @ SingTel on 28 April. This is a suite of satellite solutions to enable vessels to communicate seamlessly and cost-effectively with their headquarters on land.

The solutions include 'always-on' unlimited broadband internet access, email, low-cost Voice over IP (VoIP) calls, GSM onboard and ship surveillance. Office-At-Sea @ SingTel allows users to overcome limitations in the past such as low-speed

and costly narrowband connectivity. It allows the ship to become a seamless extension of the shore-based office.

Maritime users are able to extend their office applications such as corporate email and intranet as well as internet access and voice communications to their employees at sea easily using a secured and high-speed broadband. It also enable ships to be integrated with shore-based office networks 24 hours a day, seven days a week and anywhere in the world.

With the launch of Office At Sea @ SingTel, SingTel hopes to improve the

productivity of maritime companies and enhancing their competitive edge. Another benefit is the improvement of crew welfare since the next generation of seafarers are better educated and technology-savvy.

This initiative complements the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore's Wireless-broadband-access for SeaPort or WISEPORT project. This project has made the Port of Singapore the first in the world to offer mobile wireless broadband services to ships and facilities in the port.