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Sean H'ng says Leader has invested RM23mil this year to upgrade its production capacity and expand its cable and wire product range



## Leader tenders for RM1.4bil jobs

By DAVID TAN

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**PENANG:** Leader Universal Holdings Bhd is tendering for over RM1.4bil worth of contracts to supply cable and wire products.

Over RM800mil of the contracts we are tendering for is for the local market while some RM600mil is for the overseas market," group managing director Sean H'ng told *StarBiz*.

He said about RM20bil had been allocated for electricity transmission and distribution and rural electrification under the Ninth Malaysia Plan.

"Some of the projects we expect to take part in are the revived double-tracking railway, Tenaga Nasional Bhd projects to improve electricity supply network, the Bakun subma-

rine cable interconnection, the Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCEER), the Eastern Corridor Economic Region, the Iskandar Development Region, and the Sabah Development Corridor.

"We also expect continued strong demand for cable and wire products from many of our key overseas markets, including the Middle East, Europe and Asia," he said.

H'ng added that Leader, through its subsidiaries, had secured orders worth over RM700mil for its cable and wire products for delivery from the second half of the year.

He said the group recently started producing a wider range of cable and wire products, which included lead sheath cables, milkten conductor power cables and optical power

ground wires.

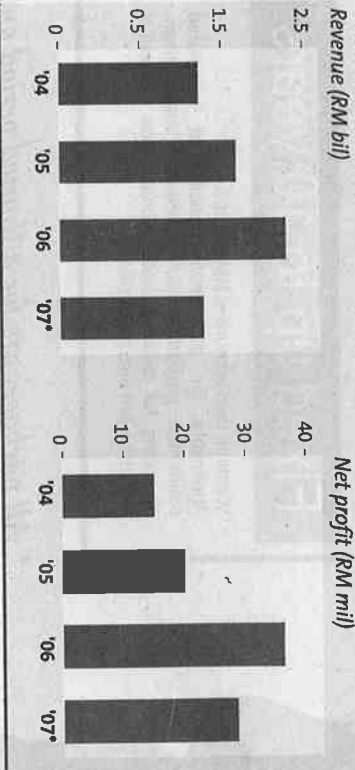
It has also started commercial operation of an additional production line for aluminium rods.

"We have invested RM23mil in capital expenditure this year to improve and upgrade our production capacity and expand our cable and wire product range," H'ng said.

On its new 200MW coal-fired power plant in Sihanoukville, Cambodia, H'ng said Leader, together with its Cambodian joint venture partner, was now finalising the terms and conditions of the Power Purchase Agreement and Implementation Agreement with the Cambodian authorities.

"We have also put in place most of

**Leader Universal financial highlights**



\* Unaudited results for the financial period ended June 30, 2007  
 Source: Leader Universal Holdings Bhd

# Leader makes BNP advisor

**> FROM BI**

the advisory group necessary for a successful implementation. We have appointed BNP Paribas as financial advisor, Hunton & Williams as legal advisor, Poyry Plc as technical advisor and PricewaterhouseCoopers as tax advisor.

"Poyry, headquartered in Finland, is a global consulting and engineering firm focusing on the energy, forest industry and infrastructure and environment sectors," he said.

Hing said Leader was still engaged in a feasibility study for its 200MW heavy fuel oil-fired

diesel engine power plant project in Gujranwala, Pakistan, in view of the changing market conditions in that country.

"We are pleased with the recent performance of our cable and wire business, especially power cable and rod. While we are continually planning to grow our core business in cable and wire, the power business is clearly our second engine of growth," he added.

On its 46.3ha land bank in Simpang Ampat, South Seberang Prai, Hing said the group was reviewing the type of properties that could be launched in the area to tap the spillover effects of the second bridge and the NCER.