

## Harnessing the power of synergy to save the environment

The global market for green technologies is estimated to be worth about US\$700 billion by 2010 as companies worldwide seek to be more energy efficient and environmentally conscious. The expansion of the global green industry is outpacing growth rates in most other industries and local firms are set to get a piece of the action.

"Opportunities abound for our environmental players," said Mr Victor Tay, SPRING's Director of Transport, Logistics, Environmental and Engineering Services, Biomedical and Chemicals.

"However, some of these projects are municipality-driven, which favours large multinationals. The way forward for SMEs is to collaborate, draw

upon each other's strengths to great effect in the global marketplace."

He said that SPRING supports promising collaborative projects, such as the new ballast water treatment system which will be integrated into future marine vessels by SembCorp Marine Technology Pte Ltd and two local enterprises.

The agency also works closely with environmental industry associations like the Singapore Water Association, Sustainable Energy Association of Singapore (SEAS) and Waste Management and Recycling Association of Singapore (WMRAS).

They play a crucial role in providing the platform and conduit for collaboration



Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry Mr S. Iswaran (standing, centre) looking on as signatories from SEAS (third right), WMRAS (right) and other organisations ink the Memorandum of Understanding at the launch of the EWT Centre of Innovation on 1 July 2008.

among stakeholders in the supply chain, government bodies and other key partners.

Associations that are

capable of driving industry development and spearheading initiatives to improve the overall capabilities of

SMEs in their industries can tap on the Local Enterprise and Association Development Programme (LEAD).

It supports projects in five areas: technology and infrastructure, expertise and managerial competence, business collaboration, intelligence and research, and advisory and consultancy.

"LEAD stimulates industry growth by backing the efforts of strong and willing associations across the next three- to five-year timeframe. With the vital impetus, associations will achieve more than they can on their own," said Mr Tay.

## All on deck to develop ballast water treatment system

Local companies are jointly developing the region's first chemical-free ballast water treatment system.

Come 2011, the International Maritime Organization will require all newly built ocean-going vessels to be fitted with a system that treats ballast water before it is discharged at the port of call. This is to prevent cross-contamination of international waters.

Seeing huge market potential for developing a new ballast water treatment system, SembCorp Marine Technology Pte Ltd approached two local small and

proven technology that can be incorporated in the system.

SIF Technologies Pte Ltd, an environmental engineering company, provides chemical-free water treatment solutions, while Memiontec Pte Ltd specialises in water purification systems.

For help with the design and testing of the land-based prototype, the team brought the Marine Centre of Innovation at Ngee Ann Polytechnic



Mr Matthew Tan from SIF Technologies Pte Ltd (left), Mr Wee Keng Hwee from SembCorp Marine Technology Pte Ltd (centre) and Ms Dewi Kwek from Memiontec Pte Ltd are collaborating to develop the region's first chemical-

Keen to support this first-ever collaboration between the marine industry and environmental SMEs, SPRING gave a grant to defray the project costs.

Although work on the prototype has just begun, the companies are confident that with their combined capabilities, they can complete it within six months.

Thereafter, the system will undergo land-based testing, before it is installed in a ship for further testing.

free, unlike other currently available systems," said Mr Wee Keng Hwee, General Manager of SembCorp Marine Technology. "It will be powered by the existing system onboard the ship, so it will require no additional energy."

Hopeful that the system will go places, he said, "We want to do something that is ours, a Singapore product that can be exported. The market potential is enormous. If we can commercialise our system, the