



Leeden: Growing Foothold In Industrial Gas

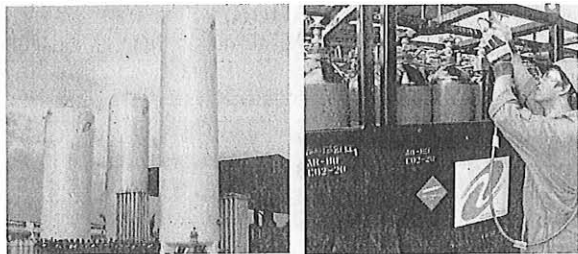
Mr Steven Tham,
Chairman and CEO,
Leeden Limited



LEEDEN Limited ("Leeden" or "Group"), a SGX Mainboard-listed distributor and manufacturer which specializes in welding, gas and safety products across the region, is headquartered in Singapore and has a strong presence throughout South East Asia, with offices, showrooms and manufacturing facilities located in Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and China. Today, it has branded itself as a total integrated solutions provider for welding, gas and safety products across the region, supporting a wide range of key industries such as the marine, oil & gas, manufacturing, infrastructure and electronics industries.

The industrial division is Leeden's core performer and main revenue contributor. The Group's industrial division has manufacturing capabilities in not just welding but gas and safety, allowing it to provide integrated solutions for all three types of product as well as capture large segments of the market.

Leeden's industrial gas business is operated through the NIG Group, which is a joint venture between Leeden and National Oxygen Pte Ltd. And more recently, National Oxygen Pte Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Taiyo Nippon Sanso Corporation, the leading industrial gas company in Japan, has emerged as a 5.20% substantial shareholder of Leeden. In fact, National Oxygen Pte Ltd has been a close working partner of Leeden for over 18 years since 1992.



With Leeden's gas manufacturing operations in Singapore, Batam and extending across much of Malaysia, the strong relationship and synergies cultivated between both companies is further enhanced through Taiyo Nippon Sanso's strategic stake.

Just like oxygen is essential to mankind's survival, many industries require various industrial gases (such as oxygen, acetylene, argon and nitrogen) in their production processes. The different gases are used in a wide variety of industries, but most notably in the shipyards, fabrication yards, construction and infrastructure fields.

Commenting on this market segment, Chairman and CEO Mr Steven Tham says, "Asia is the largest consuming region because of rapid growth in developing industrial markets, especially those of China. In addition, the steady and ongoing development of new products and technologies has induced new industrial gas applications and boosted overall market demand."

Leeden's commitment to service excellence is evident in its strategic location of gas manufacturing operations in Johor, Malacca, Kuala Lumpur, Negeri Sembilan, Penang, Ipoh and Kuantan, that is within close proximity to its customers. With the official opening of the new Dissolved Acetylene plant in Penang this year and the construction works of an office building and additional gas plant in Kuantan right on track, the Group's production capacity is set to expand and augment its market presence in Malaysia.

Leeden's turnover increased to S\$186.1 million last year, nearly 19% up from FY2008, which also represents a more than tenfold growth in as many years—in FY1999, a decade ago. The dramatic numbers are the result of management's strategic focus on developing its core businesses and regional expansion.

Mr Tham concluded, "Overall, we are cautiously optimistic about Leeden's outlook. Leeden's existing specialties—welding products, industrial gas and safety equipment are complementary in business nature and enable the Group to actively participate in our customers' supply chain processes to provide integrated solutions. Particularly, the market demand for industrial gas continues to be encouraging and we seek to harness the Group's business synergies and economies of scale as we grow our market presence in this segment."

Leeden Group 10 Years Turnover 1999 - 2009
(SGD million)

