

ECONOMY

McDermott Inaugurates Cakrawala and Nusantara Buildings in Batam to Deliver Major Global Energy Projects

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Officials and executives inaugurate the Cakrawala and Nusantara Buildings at McDermott's Batam Fabrication Yard. The new facilities will support the construction of offshore HVDC converter platforms for renewable energy projects in Europe. Photo: McDermott's Batam

batampos – PT McDermott Indonesia has officially inaugurated two major new industrial facilities, the Cakrawala and Nusantara buildings, at its Batam Fabrication Yard (BFY) on Thursday, May 28.

TenneT's projects make a significant contribution to the economic security of the facilities and strengthen BFY's position as a key fabrication hub supporting the global energy transition.

The addition of these two modern facilities marks an important milestone in Batam's industrial transformation—from a region traditionally known for oil and gas fabrication into a global hub for green energy.

The inauguration was attended by Indonesia's Minister of National Development Planning (PPN)/Head of Bappenas, Prof. Dr. Ir. Rachmat Pambudy, MS; the Governor of the Riau Islands, H. Ansar Ahmad, SE, MM; BP Batam Deputy for Investment, Fary Djemy Francis; Batam City Regional Secretary, Firmansyah; and European energy industry partners.

More than just new buildings, the project symbolizes Batam's entry into the global green energy supply chain. From Batam, massive offshore converter platforms (weighing in excess of 30,000 tons) will be produced to support clean energy needs in Germany and across Europe.

The two buildings will support the construction of High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) platforms, using transmission system technology capable of delivering large-scale electricity



McDermott inaugurates the Cakrawala and Nusantara Buildings at its Batam Fabrication Yard to support global offshore wind energy projects. Photo: McDermott's Batam

McDermott: Batam Chosen for Its Scale and Experience

Jason Williams, Vice President of HVDC at McDermott, explained that the two buildings serve different but interconnected roles in constructing offshore wind converter platforms.

The Cakrawala Building serves as the main hub for the fabrication of large stressed-skin blocks, similar to the methodology used by shipbuilding fabrication yards. Large structural panels and supporting steel are used to form blocks weighing between 1,000–3,000 tons, which are then joined together, where the HVDC equipment is installed to form the final platform for the project. Each project includes 18 blocks per platform.

The Nusantara Building is dedicated to the blasting and painting of these blocks prior to assembly. This building utilizes the latest blasting and painting technology and has the primary benefit of ensuring environmental control during these activities.

"Each 2GW HVDC project utilizes the Cakrawala and Nusantara facility for the construction and painting of these complex blocks, with an anticipated 22 million work hours being expended in the fabrication of the two current projects," Jason told Batam Pos.

He explained that the current projects are High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) electric power transmission projects, designed to transmit electricity generated from offshore wind in the North Sea of Germany to communities on land across Germany.

The process begins with large offshore wind farms generating energy. Since this wind energy power cannot be sent directly onshore, it is converted from AC to DC through a converter platform located adjacent to the wind farm (those built in Batam). This platform converts the

back to AC at an onshore station before being fed into the electrical grid for consumer use.

Jason explained that McDermott was selected as the EPCIC contractor to build these complex platforms in Batam due to his over 70 years of fabrication experience and McDermott's experience in offshore projects globally. He also highlighted the capability of the local workforce, whose experience in oil and gas is now being applied to green energy projects.

The construction of Cakrawala and Nusantara project construction [DB1.1] involved 100% Indonesian workers and local contractors. The Cakrawala facility is among the largest block assembly facilities in Southeast Asia.

McDermott: Project Creates Thousands of Local Jobs

Robert Shaul, Senior Vice President of Low Carbon Solutions at McDermott, emphasized that safety is the top priority given the scale and complexity of the structures.

McDermott has achieved 4.5 million work hours without a lost-time incident during construction of these infrastructure facilities—a major milestone. The scale of this infrastructure will leave a lasting legacy at the Batam fabrication yard.

The two newly completed facilities are substantial in scale and designed to support modern shipbuilding and offshore fabrication operations. The Cakrawala Building spans approximately 15,700 square meters, comparable in size to a large aircraft hangar, providing ample space for heavy industrial activities and large-scale assembly work.

Meanwhile, the Nusantara Building covers about 8,005 square meters and serves as a state-of-the-art blasting and painting facility, equipped to enhance production efficiency, quality, and environmental standards. Together, these facilities significantly strengthen the shipyard's operational capacity and competitiveness in the global maritime industry.

The development of these facilities has also generated a significant economic impact. During the construction phase, nearly 4,000 workers were involved in the project, with the workforce peaking at around 2,000 workers at the height of construction activities.

The project not only strengthened industrial infrastructure but also created substantial employment opportunities and contributed to the local economy throughout its development.

He noted that the project is also driving growth in Batam's hospitality, transport, and services sectors, and expressed pride in contributing to the city's ongoing development.

TenneT: Batam Has Capability for Large-Scale Global Projects

Daniel Birkenstock, Project Director for Offshore 2GW Projects at TenneT, said Batam was selected because very few shipyards globally have the capability to execute projects of this scale.

The infrastructure being built is vast—approximately 190 by 115 meters and 70 meters high, equivalent in height to a 10-storey football stadium.

TenneT is currently advancing two major projects as part of its long-term energy infrastructure development strategy. The first project, BalWin4, is targeted for completion between late 2029



approximately one year later.

Both projects play a crucial role in expanding offshore wind energy connectivity and strengthening the future renewable energy network.

TenneT operates electricity transmission systems across Europe, connecting offshore wind farms to onshore power grids.

Government: Batam Enters the Global Green Energy Supply Chain

Minister Rachmat Pambudy stated that the project demonstrates that Indonesia—especially Batam and the Riau Islands—has entered the global green energy supply chain.

He praised McDermott as a long-term investor, having operated in Indonesia for over 70 years. The government is now focusing on developing green jobs and preparing the workforce for high-tech industries.

Governor Ansar Ahmad stressed the project's significant contribution to economic growth and employment opportunities in the region. He noted that the majority of the workforce involved in the project, including engineering designers and other skilled professionals, are Indonesians, reflecting the country's growing industrial capabilities and talent pool.

The governor also highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen vocational education, with a target of increasing vocational school enrollment to 70 percent in order to better align workforce skills with industry demands.

In addition, he pointed out that Batam continues to solidify its position as a major industrial hub, with approximately 60 percent of the shipbuilding industry in the Riau Islands concentrated in the city. This, he said, underscores Batam's strategic role in supporting Indonesia's manufacturing and maritime sectors.

The region's strategic location along the Malacca Strait—one of the world's busiest trade routes—combined with streamlined investment processes through BP Batam, continues to attract global investors.

This project marks a major shift for Batam—from an oil and gas fabrication base to a key player in the global green energy industry—positioning it as a future hub for large-scale clean energy infrastructure. (*)