



Alam Maritim In The News

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## Oil & Gas still attractive despite slowdown

KUALA LUMPUR: The oil and gas industry is still a lucrative sector to invest in despite the current slowdown in the global economy, says CIMB Private Equity and Venture Capital director Darawati Hussain.

"The industry is always attractive to investors and this is why we chose the sector as part of our investment strategy," she said yesterday after the signing ceremony between CIMB Private Equity and Alam Maritime Resources Bhd.

Darawati said year-to-date, CIMB Private Equity had invested a total of about RM250mil, including in the joint venture with Alam Maritim.

"We are in negotiation to invest in six other projects which are worth about RM60mil. They include ventures in the manufacturing and agriculture sectors," she said.

CIMB Private Equity and Alam Maritim will set up of a joint-venture company, Alam-PE Holdings (L) Inc, with assets valued at about US\$70mil.

CIMB Private Equity will hold a 51% stake while the rest will be owned by Alam Maritim subsidiary Alam Maritim (L) Inc.

Alam-PE plans to acquire five new vessels in the coming months to support the oil and gas industry's moderate and deepwater exploration activities.

The vessels include an anchor-handling tug supply vessel, two floating, storage and offloading straight support vessels, and two accommodation vessels.

CIMB Islamic Bank Bhd will provide a *syariah*-compliant bank loan of up to US\$63mil to Alam-PE to help fund the purchases.

Darawati said this joint venture represented an exciting and innovative investment.

“Not only are we entering the highly-regulated oil and gas industry, we are also investing in strategic assets that would enjoy strong demand and appreciate in value,+she said.

Alam Maritim managing director and chief executive officer Azmi Ahmad said the joint venture reflected CIMB Private Equity’s confidence in its operating model and growth prospects.

He said it was timely to invest in new vessels as deepwater exploration in Malaysian waters was fast gaining momentum