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Malakoff's 429MW GB3 power plant resumes operations ahead of schedule

The Malaysian Reserve, Malaysia

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GB3's open-cycle gas turbine can start up quickly when electricity demand rises, providing extra power during peak periods and helping maintain the grid's reserve capacity

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by FAREZZA HANUM RASHID

MALAKOFF Corporation Bhd's 429-megawatt (MW) GB3 power plant in Lumut, Perak, has resumed commercial operations almost three months ahead of schedule, adding capacity to Peninsular Malaysia's electricity grid amid rising demand.

The plant, operated by Malakoff's subsidiary GB3 Sdn Bhd, was recommissioned on Oct 7, ahead of its scheduled commercial operation date of Jan 1, 2027, under a new power purchase agreement (PPA) with Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB).



Pics courtesy of Malakoff



With GB3 back in operation earlier than scheduled, an additional 429MW is now available to support the country's energy security, says Syahrunizam

The plant had last been in service in December 2022. Its new PPA, secured following a competitive bidding exercise by the Energy Commission (EC), will run until Dec 31, 2029.

The extension is part of Malakoff's successful bid to extend the operating periods of three gas-fired power plants under the commission's Project Category 1 exercise for new generation capacity in Peninsular Malaysia for 2025 to 2029.

Malakoff group CEO Syahrunizam Tan Sri Samsudin said the plant's early return would help meet the country's growing electricity requirements, particularly from industrial expansion and data centre investments.

"Electricity demand in Malaysia keeps growing as the economy expands and new investments, particularly data centres, come into the country.

"For the grid to keep up, it needs sufficient, dependable capacity that it can count on at all times. With GB3 back in operation earlier than scheduled, an additional 429MW is now available to support the country's energy security," he said in a statement.

GB3's open-cycle gas turbine configuration allows it to start up quickly during periods of higher electricity demand, providing peaking capacity and supporting the grid's reserve margin.

Together with Malakoff's Segari Energy Ventures Sdn Bhd (SEV) plant, which is scheduled to resume operations by July 1, 2027, the Lumut Power Plant will provide a combined generation capacity of 1,732MW to the national grid.

Malakoff's Prai power plant in Penang, the first of the group's three plants to secure an extension, resumed operations on April 9, 2026.

Syahrunizam said extending the operating life of existing power plants was a cost-efficient way to strengthen electricity supply as the infrastructure was already in place.

He added that the new PPA was expected to contribute positively to Malakoff's earnings and net assets over the extension period, while supporting its energy business as a core contributor to the group.

The return of GB3 comes as Malaysia seeks to strengthen its electricity supply capacity to support economic growth and new investments, including energy-intensive data centre developments.

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