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B. Grimm plans US\$1b investments in Malaysia

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RE, POWER SECTORS

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KUALA LUMPUR: Thailand's multinational power conglomerate B. Grimm Power Public Company Ltd plans to invest more than US\$1 billion in the fast-growing renewable energy (RE) and power sectors in Malaysia over the next few years.

B. Grimm chairman and chief executive officer Datuk Seri Harald Link said the decision was prompted by both countries being neighbours and the company having close ties to Malaysia over the last 20 years.

He said B. Grimm has already invested around RM200 million in Malaysia's RE sector to date.

"B. Grimm can continue to bring its expertise in solar power plants, industrial power, RE and independent power producers to Malaysia."

Link said B. Grimm is looking to strengthen its presence in Malaysia following the acquisition of a 45 per cent stake in reNIKOLA Holdings Sdn Bhd in 2021 for RM367 million.

The acquisition was made through wholly owned subsidiary B. Grimm Power Malaysia Sdn Bhd.

B. Grimm had injected RM152.5 million into reNIKOLA and the company acquired two solar power projects in Kuala Muda, Kedah and Machang in Kelantan with a total installed capacity of 90 megawatts (MW). Both Kuala Muda and Machang projects came with a 21-year power purchase agreement with Tenaga Nasional Bhd.

reNIKOLA also owns solar power assets in Arau, Gebeng and Pekan.

It plans to develop a large-scale solar plant in Bukit Kayu Hitam.

B. Grimm had also incorporated a company selling spare parts for air conditioners and refrigerators

20 years ago.

Presently, B. Grimm is exploring the combined cycle gas business and gas-fired power projects in Malaysia.

"We have many projects in Thailand and we are the largest supplier of power in 10 special economic zones. We are also active in Cambodia and Vietnam. We are good in supplying uninterrupted electricity to industries."

Among the power plants operated by B. Grimm is the 140MW co-generation plant in Laem Chabang Industrial Estate in Chon Buri province. The plant supplies electricity to the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand and other industries in the estate.

Apart from gas-based energy, B. Grimm supplies solar power from rooftops and batteries.

Despite the perception that Malaysia has limited capacity for wind energy due to geographic and climate factors, Link said extracting power from wind energy is possible.

"We have invested in hydropower, wind power, solar power and gas, and we're doing this in more than 15 countries. We were the first private entity to build an offshore wind plant in South Korea. We built it with turbines, with each wind turbine standing between 100m and 150m tall, with the generator, blades and gearbox located at the top. The gearbox is used to transfer power," he said.

Link also said B. Grimm has invested in a company in Germany that eliminates the need for a gearbox. This results in fewer mechanical issues and reduces the risk of breakdowns. **Bernama**