

Thai News Update: 23 November 2018

1. 18 Firms Pick Up Bid Docs For Map Ta Phut

Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))

The Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand (IEAT) says 18 local and foreign companies bought envelopes for the auction of Map Ta Phut port's third phase, a project worth 55.4 billion baht. On 21 November, the IEAT closed the sale of envelopes containing terms of reference. Ten of the bidders are Thai companies: Gulf Energy Development Plc, PTT Global Chemical, PTT Tank Terminal Co, Thai Tank Terminal Ltd, Electricity Generating Plc, Sinohydro Corporation Co, Sahakarn Wisavakorn Co, Italian-Thai Development Corporation Plc, Ratchaburi Electricity Generating Holding Plc and Unique Engineering and Construction Plc.

2. Ministry Readies B100m For SME And Startup Lending

Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))

The Industrial Promotion Department will launch a new-year package with a budget of 100 million baht to support financial tools for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and startup. Deputy director-general Jaruphun Jarayophat said the package will be administered by the Industry Transformation Centre (ITC) in upcountry provinces. The Industry Ministry will expand the 13 centres to cover 77 provinces by 2018, as well as set up 64 mini centres as part of the ITC network. Mr Jaruphun said Industry Minister Uttama Savanayana will approve the financial measures soon.

3. Wastewater Stations To Get B188m

Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))

Pattaya City Council has approved a budget of 188 million baht to improve the condition of its six wastewater treatment stations that have fallen into disrepair after nearly 20 years of operations. The city's wastewater treatment system cost an estimated 1.8 billion baht in 2000. It was designed to handle 65,000 cubic metres per day, said Phatthana Bunsawat, deputy mayor of Pattaya. After more than 17 years of service, about 38% of all the equipment and machines were found to be

between 40% and 50% worn out, which requires prompt repair and maintenance to guarantee they remain effective, he said.

4. NBTC Nudges MCOT For Spectrum Return

Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))

The telecom regulator is resuming discussions with MCOT Plc, calling on the state-owned public broadcaster to return unused 2600MHz broadcasting spectrum for later use in 5G network development. The move follows 22 November resolution by the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) board that officially passed the final draft and established a spectrum and compensation regime for recalling unused spectrum ranges for auction for recalling unused spectrum ranges for auction.

5. Rebound In Exports Shows Gains From Superpower Trade Conflict

Source: The Nation ([Link](#))

Thailand has benefited from the US-China trade war, with exports jumping to a net value of US\$146 million (Bt4.8 billion) for October. Figures in the October trade report also show that overall export growth has rebounded from the previous month's decline, expanding by up to 8.7 per cent month on month. Various Thai exports to the US have increased as they replaced the former Chinese products that are now under heavy tariffs. For example, export of automobiles and parts to the US have increased by 26.1 per cent, while that of steel products increased by up to 89.2 per cent in October.

6. WHA Signs Development Mou With Yunnan Energy

Source: The Nation ([Link](#))

WHA Corporation, Thailand's leader in fully-integrated logistics and industrial facilities solutions, has announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Yunnan Energy Investment Group (YEIG) to develop strategic logistics cooperation between Yunnan, Laos and Thailand. The announcement was made during the China International Import Expo held in Shanghai during November 5-10, 2018, the company said in a press release issued on 28 November. As part of the "One Belt, One Road" initiative put forward by Chinese authorities, the

MoU is named “The Belt and Road” Memorandum of Strategic Cooperation of Comprehensive Logistic Joint Work. Its main objective is to explore business opportunities in the areas of logistics and trade between Yunnan, Laos and Thailand.