

TICON LOGISTICS PARK TO LINK NEW AIRPORT AND PORTS

Ticon Industrial Connection Plc. (“Ticon”) has established a subsidiary Ticon Logistics Park Co., Ltd., to develop a 250,000 square meter logistics park on Bangna-Trat Highway Km 39 to serve as a warehousing and distribution center with short-distance access to Thailand’s new Suvarnabhumi Airport and its main deep sea port at Laem Chabang.

The Ticon Logistics Park will begin handing over warehouse space to manufacturers, distributors and logistic service providers in December 2006. Warehouse facilities will be constructed in accordance with international standards and will meet the design needs of individual customers. “With Suvarnabhumi Airport only 20 Km to the West and Laem Chabang Port 70 Km. to the South of the Ticon Logistics Park, we are convinced that the Park will become the center of import/export logistics activity in Thailand”, said Mr. Ian Hamilton, General Manager of Business Development of Ticon.

Indeed, prospects look bright for the new venture. Bangkok’s new Suvarnabhumi Airport is set to become the major air gateway of Thailand and the ASEAN Region. On opening, the airport will have a capacity to handle 45 million. passengers and 3 million. metric tonnes of cargo per annum. However, with its extra runway already under construction, and additional terminal and support facilities , the airport will quickly have the capacity to handle 100 million passengers and 6.4 million tonnes of cargo on an annual basis. At the same time, Laem Chabang Port has doubled its annual capacity from 2 million TEUs (twenty foot equivalent units) in 2001 to 4 million TEUs in 2006. Ranked within the Top 20 of the world’s busiest container ports, Laem Chabang expects to achieve throughput of 5.9 million TEUs annually by 2008 and 8.55 million TEUs by 2017.

Ticon, which currently has almost 300 factories under management in the Kingdom, spotted the necessity for the Logistics Park a few years ago and spent a considerable amount of time finding the perfect site. “Around 11% of our existing business at Ticon is logistics related, so we realized that there would be a need for world-class facilities to serve the airport, the expanding port and the growing industrial hub on the Eastern Seaboard. We were looking for a site that could support our infrastructure requirements, was easily accessible from the main highway and was not hampered by congestion. The site we purchased at Km 39 met these requirements well and had the added benefit of being physically located closer to the Bangkok metropolitan region than we originally imagined”, said Mr. Hamilton.