

Ekuiņas buys Penang-based lighting producer Davex for RM255m

KUALA LUMPUR: Ekuiti Nasional Bhd (Ekuiņas) has acquired 100 per cent stake in lighting design, consultancy and manufacturer Davex (M) Sdn Bhd for RM255 million, its largest investment in the manufacturing sector.

Davex is a homegrown regional market leader that has notable projects across the region.

"The investment marks our entry into the manufacturing sector, which is timely as demand for luminaires, especially energy-efficient models, is rapidly increasing," said Ekuiņas chairman Raja Tan Sri Arshad Raja Tun Uda in a statement yesterday.

Ekuiņas, a government-linked private equity fund management company, said the region's economic growth will spur demand from property and infrastructure developers.

Davex manufactures products under the brand name Davis Lighting.

The Penang-based manufacturer, founded in 1983, provides end-to-end lighting solutions to commercial, industrial and residential clients and has strong presence in Singapore and Australia.

Davex has delivered products for large-scale projects such as

the Petronas Twin Towers, Sunway Medical Centre and Singapore's Changi Airport.

Additionally, innovation in energy efficiency will push developers to adopt energy-efficient lighting solutions for regional major developments, which are projected to drive demand for light fittings.

As the industry experiences a shift from conventional to energy-efficient LED lighting, Davex is well-placed to capitalise on the increasing demand for energy efficient lighting solutions.

"Ekuiņas will leverage Davex's strengths towards achieving its

value creation plan that we have put in place to expand its top line growth while increasing its presence in Malaysia and the region, as well as streamlining systems and process integration with the aim of improving brand equity.

"We will work closely with Davex's management team to establish and accelerate local and regional growth to replicate the company's success in Singapore and Australia, and look to expand its facility in Penang. We are confident that as the company grows, there will also be increased employment opportunities for all Malaysians," said

Ekuiņas chief executive officer Syed Yasir Arafat Syed Abd Kadir.

Davex group managing director Yap Chung San said the acquisition by Ekuiņas is a milestone for the company.

"We look forward to working with Ekuiņas to take Davex to the next phase. With its expertise and track record of growing companies in Malaysia, we are confident Davex is in good hands."

Since its inception in 2009, Ekuiņas has made 54 direct and outsourced investments, with a total committed capital of more than RM3 billion.