

Manila Water invests P158.16 million in facility upgrades

MANILA WATER CO., Inc., the east zone water concessionaire, said it has invested P158.16 million to enhance lightning and surge protection systems at eight of its key facilities.

"This investment is a proactive measure to safeguard our facilities, our personnel, and the communities we serve," Jeric T. Sevilla, director for corporate communications affairs at Manila Water, said in a media release on Tuesday.

"By enhancing the resilience of our pumping stations, we are ensuring the continuity of water service even in the face of extreme weather events and electrical disturbances," he added.

The facilities covered by the upgrade include the Cubao Pumping Station; Balarra Pumping Stations 1 and 2; Maybunga Pumping Station; N. Domingo Pumping Stations 1 and 2; Pasig Pumping Station; and San Juan Pumping Station 1.

"These facilities are being equipped with advanced protection systems designed to mitigate the risks posed by lightning strikes and electrical surges," Manila Water said.

The project includes the installation of a static-dissipating air terminal lightning protection system, which is intended to intercept and safely redirect lightning strikes away from critical infrastructure to minimize potential damage.

It also involves upgraded grounding systems that help safely dissipate electrical currents into the ground, significantly reducing the risk of equipment damage and operational disruptions.

"The upgraded systems will not only improve safety and reduce hazards but also extend the lifespan of critical assets, resulting in long-term cost savings and improved regulatory compliance," the company said.

Manila Water serves the east zone of Metro Manila, covering parts of Marikina, Pasig, Makati, Taguig, Pateros, Mandaluyong, San Juan, portions of Quezon City and Manila, and several towns in Rizal province. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

Allegro renews supply deal with MPower for 100% renewable energy

SEMICONDUCTOR manufacturer Allegro Microsystems Philippines, Inc. has renewed its power supply agreement with MPower, the retail electricity supply unit of Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), to support its shift to 100% renewable energy.

Under the new agreement, Allegro will source its entire electricity requirement from renewable energy through MPower.

"MPower has enabled us to achieve our five-year sustainability target early, accelerating our timeline. This marks a major milestone in our advocacy and stand to lead a more responsible semiconductor manufacturing," Allegro Senior Director-Controller Ronald Dela Rosa said in a statement on Tuesday.

The partnership, which began over a decade ago, is expected to help Allegro significantly reduce its carbon emissions, MPower said.



MPower First Vice-President Redel M. Domingo (left) and Allegro Microsystems Philippines, Inc. Senior Director-Controller Ronald Dela Rosa sign a contract for a fully renewable electricity supply.

"MPower's provision of 100% renewable energy has enabled Allegro to realize its 2030 sustainability target at its manufacturing sites ahead of

schedule. This success highlights the strength of our partnership and our shared commitment to clean energy transformation," First Vice-Presi-

dent and Head of MPower Redel M. Domingo said.

Under the Competitive Retail Electricity Market (CREM), qualified end-users with an average monthly demand of at least 500 kilowatts are allowed to select their electricity supplier based on specific operational needs.

MPower supplies contestable customers, including large corporations operating within Meralco's franchise area.

The company holds more than a 25% share of the CREM market within the Meralco franchise.

Meralco's controlling shareholder, Beacon Electric Asset Holdings, Inc., is partly owned by PLDT Inc.

Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., has an interest in *BusinessWorld* through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

Premium-Dragonhart JV sole bidder for EDSA Busway project

THE P252-MILLION rehabilitation of Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (EDSA) Busway Stations Phase 1 project has attracted a sole bidder, the Department of Transportation (DoTr) said.

During the bid opening for the design-and-build contract of the EDSA Busway Stations Rehabilitation Phase 1, the DoTr identified the bidder as a joint venture between Premium Megastructures, Inc. and Dragonhart Construction Enterprise, Inc.

The DoTr said the joint venture (JV) was the only qualified bidder, submitting a bid amounting to P247.59 million, below the approved project ceiling of P252 million.

In April, the DoTr issued the invitation to bid for the design-and-build contract for the first phase of the EDSA Busway Stations rehabilitation, with an approved budget for the contract (ABC) of P252.80 million.

Dragonhart Construction Enterprise, established in 2004, specializes in infrastructure projects includ-



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ing water and wastewater systems, flood control, waste management, and renewable energy, according to its corporate profile.

Premium Megastructures, founded in 2012 and based in Ormoc, offers project management, engineering, procurement, and general construction services.

In March, Premium Megastructures was awarded a P704.55-million contract for the construction of a new cruise terminal in Puerto Galera.

The EDSA Busway Project encompasses financing, design, construction, procurement of low-emission buses, route planning, and operations and maintenance of the busway, according to the Public-Private Partnership Center.

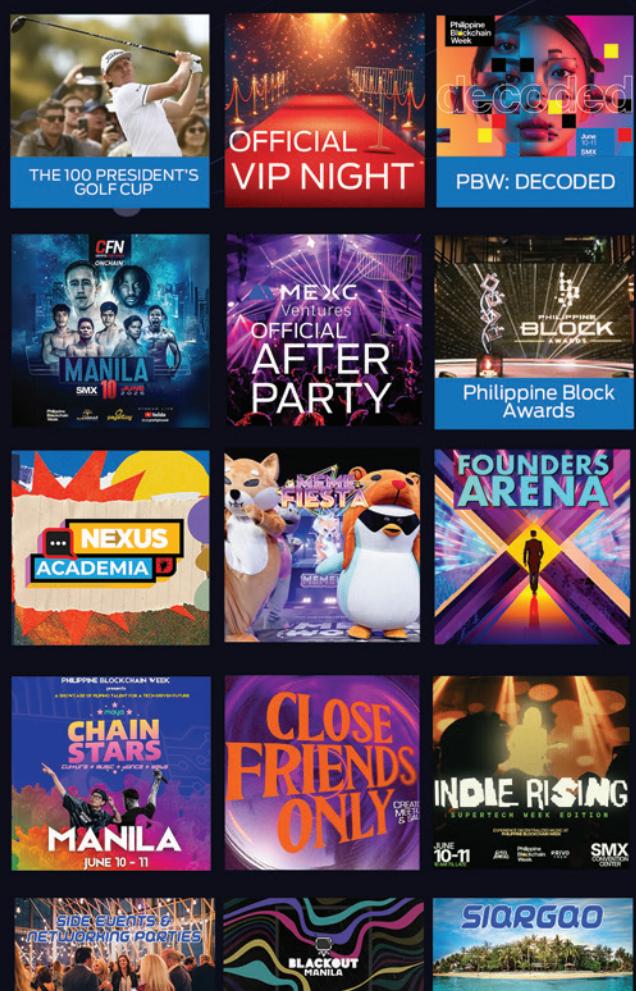
The winning bidder is expected to complete the project within one year, the DoTr said.

The DoTr confirmed that the planned privatization of the EDSA Busway Project is currently deferred, as the agency prioritizes system improvements before engaging the private sector for operations. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

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