

NanoMaterials Technology opened new \$2.5 million facility

Singapore-based NanoMaterials Technology Pte Ltd (NMT), a company specialising in the development and commercialisation of production technologies for nanomaterials, has officially opened its new \$2.5 million facility. The new facility at Ayer Rajah Crescent includes a Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) facility as well as pharmaceutical and chemical laboratories.

The Economic Development Board (EDB) aims to double total manufacturing output to \$300 billion by 2018, and nanotechnology could impact many of our manufactured products – be it in the fields of electronics or chemicals, said Mr Chan Soo Sen, Minister of State for Education and Trade & Industry, at the ceremony on April 10. “Already, we see our \$30 billion semiconductor industry entering the nanoscale domain with its 65 nanometre process technology. Having strong capabilities in emerging technologies, such as nanotechnology, could unlock enormous growth potential for Singapore,” he added.

Singapore hopes to develop diverse communities which encompass nanotechnology-enabled materials, tools and applications – which will broaden Singapore’s capacity to capture the opportunities along the entire research value chain. “NMT is a good example of one such company. In addition to being a nanomaterials company, it is also a critical knowledge provider for downstream users who are interested in exploring and exploiting the opportunities created by nanotechnology,” Mr Chan added.

NMT was co-founded in 2000 by its chief executive officer



(Far left): Dr Jimmy Yun, Chairman and CEO of NanoMaterials showing Mr Chan Soo Sen, Minister of State for Education and Trade & Industry an example of their apparatus in their new \$2.5 million facility.

Dr Jimmy Yun (an Australian) and its director Professor Chen Jianfeng (a Chinese national). They chose Singapore over all the other countries in the region as their base start-up due to a few factors, including Singapore’s excellent IP regime, strong government support for R&D, excellent R&D infrastructure as well as the availability of a highly skilled workforce. NMT currently has 20 employees and was included in “The Nanotechnology Report 2004” by Lux Research as one of the top seven private nanotechnology companies in Asia. It counts, amongst its nanotechnology development customers, 3M and Weyerhaeuser from the US, BASF from Germany and other multinational companies from Europe and Japan. **51**