

**CHEMICALS**

# GGC-KTIS bioeconomic complex on drafting board

**YUTHANA PRAIWAN**

SET-listed Global Green Chemicals Plc (GGC) expects to get the green light to start developing Nakornsawan Bio Complex (NBC) by September, with an investment of 7.65 billion baht for the first phase.

The NBC is a joint investment between GGC and SET-listed Kaset Thai International Sugar Corporation Plc (KTIS). Each company owns a half stake in the country's first bioeconomic industrial complex.

The NBC occupies a 2,000-rai plot adjacent to KTIS's milling plant and sugar-cane cultivation area in Takhli district, Nakhon Sawan province, some 210 kilometres north of Bangkok.

The complex's feasibility study began in 2016, and the overall project will be worth 40 billion baht.

GGC's board of executives will consider commencing the project by next month.

GGC is a subsidiary of Thailand's largest petrochemical manufacturer PTT Global Chemical Plc (PTTGC).

GGC's newly appointed managing director, Sekxon Arttamangkura, said the project was granted investment privileges from the Board of Investment.

"GGC expects to start construction by

the end of this year and begin operations in 2020," he said.

The complex will develop ethanol-based fuels, aiming to add value to biochemical products.

KTIS runs a sugar milling plant with a cane-crushing capacity of 2.4 million tonnes a year.

KTIS has an ethanol output capacity of 600,000 litres a day, with a biomass power plant capacity of 85 megawatts.

Meanwhile, GGC is a specialist in raw materials of biofuels from palm oil and sugar-based ethanol, creating biodiesel and gasohol blends.

GGC operates a production facility of methyl ester (ME) at 300 kilotonnes a year, which will be expanded by a further 200 kilotonnes for ME, 14 kilotonnes for oleo specialty and 20 kilotonnes for refined glycerine.

Oleo and glycerine are raw materials for cosmetics and food-grade products.

Mr Sekxon said the second phase of the complex is under development for sugar fibre.

Yesterday, GGC and KTIS signed an agreement with Finnish state-owned Chempolis Co, a biorefinery technology provider, to conduct a feasibility study of

biochemical products from sugar fibre.

The collaboration is to research and develop possible biochemical products from sugar fibre via Chempolis's cellulosic technology.

The project is set to add value for sugar juice and fibre with furfural, acetic acid and lignin for raw materials in biodegradable plastics, solvents and synthetic rubber, in addition to biomass.

The biochemical study is expected to see viable outcomes within three years.

The Thai firms estimate the cost of investment at 10-30 billion baht for the second phase.

Mr Sekxon said GGC will develop the polylactic acid (PLA) polymer project at the NBC. The production facility is a partnership of PTTGC and US-based Cargill, the owner of PLA patents, through a subsidiary, NatureWorks.

GGC shares closed yesterday on the Stock Exchange of Thailand at 11.20 baht, up 10 satang, in trade worth 97.8 million baht.



Executives of GGC, KTIS and Chempolis Co at a signing ceremony to conduct a feasibility study of biochemical-based products from sugar fibre.