

**ENERGY**

# Bangchak offers B3.6bn for complete takeover of Nido

**POST REPORTERS**

SET-listed Bangchak Petroleum Plc (BCP), a majority state-owned refiner, has offered to buy the remaining shares in Nido Petroleum Ltd for A\$98.2 million (2.94 billion baht).

This makes the total takeover of the Australian petroleum exploration firm worth about 3.6 billion baht.

Through its wholly owned Singaporean-listed subsidiary BCP Energy International, Bangchak entered into a bid implementation deed to make Nido a recommended offer to purchase all the outstanding shares it did not hold via an off-market takeover.

Last week, Bangchak said BCP Energy entered into a share-sale agreement with Petroleum International Investment Corporation for 402.95 million fully paid ordinary shares or nearly 20% of Nido for A\$22.2 million.

The move is aimed at generating a stable cash flow for Bangchak over the long term and diversifying risks into the international market.

Bangchak president Vichien Usanachote yesterday said the initial offer

period would be one month from Aug 19 unless extended, on the condition it gained approval from Australia's Foreign Investment Review Board.

The purchase of shares under the share sale agreement and the tender offer will have a total combined value of no more than A\$120.4 million excluding fees, taxes and other expenses, he said in a filing to the Stock Exchange of Thailand.

"Bangchak has offered to buy all remaining shares of Nido because it owns a concession to operate in Galoc in the Philippines, while its West Linapacan concession is under development," said Mr Vichien.

He said Nido had also been awarded other concession blocks with potential, and once operational they could generate immediate revenue for the company.

"Nido has capable management and personnel able to support Bangchak's strategy of expanding into petroleum exploration and production, furthering the company's business growth and competitiveness," said Mr Vichien.

BCP shares closed yesterday on the SET at 29 baht, up 25 satang, in trade worth 56.2 million baht.