

# 150 million kina training facility for POM Tech

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The PNG LNG Project has announced it would commit K150 million (US\$60 million) to construct and operate a trade training facility which will provide skilled labor to support construction of the Project's LNG Plant.

In return, at the conclusion of the LNG Plant construction, POM Tech will take ownership of these facilities and, in the near term, the Project will provide some upgrades to a number of POM Tech's existing facilities.

This training venture is the first commitment from the PNG LNG National Content Plan relating to the development of a national workforce. Together with a facility to be built at Juni, this represents an investment of approximately Kina 150 million to train about 850 graduates per year for the next four years.

Peter Graham, Managing Director Esso Highlands Limited, described the training venture as "a win for all concerned".

"The Project gains access to a convenient site on which to construct a trade training center, POM Tech gains a modern set of facilities on completion of construction of the LNG Plant, and nation gains an upskilled workforce to support this and other projects in PNG."



*Pictured with members of the POM Tech training faculty are (L-R): Daniel Tovu (Principal, Port Moresby Technical College), Peter Graham (Managing Director, Esso Highlands Limited), Marie Kopkop (Governing Council Chairperson), Arthur Somare (Minister for Public Enterprises) and Dr Joseph Pagelio (Secretary for Education)*

The curriculum will provide training in those occupations likely to be required by the Project and reserved for PNG citizens in PNG legislation. It will conform to the Australian Qualifications Framework so that qualifications will be recognized both within PNG and overseas. The training will be delivered by SkillsTech Australia and discussions are underway on the feasibility of including suitably trained and qualified PNG citizens as trainers.

#### Further information

Esso Highlands Limited  
Level 5, Credit House  
Cuthbertson Street  
(GPO Box 118)  
Port Moresby NCD  
Papua New Guinea

Arthur Somare, Minister for Public Enterprises, described the planned facilities as “state of the art”.

Tel +675 322 2111  
Fax +675 320 3457  
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“The signing ceremony today is one aspect of the commitment by the project to underpin overall social and economic development, particularly in the project areas.

“As a Government, we are appreciative of the proactive role that is being adopted by ExxonMobil and its private sector partners: Oil Search, Santos and Nippon Oil. In every sense this is a partnership that is moving ahead with confidence,” Mr Somare said.

The new facilities will be operational by the first quarter of 2010 to prepare the first group of trainees for the contractor who will construct the LNG Plant.



*Artist's impression of the proposed POMTech PNG LNG trade training facility.*