

# Underwater services is firm's forte

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FOLLOWING its success in Singapore, Unidive Marine Services (M) Sdn Bhd hopes to capture the Malaysian market by offering the widest range of underwater services in stages.

Its general manager Victor Wong said the Malaysian venture was based on developments in the local maritime industry especially in the oil and gas sector.

"The hike in oil prices has stimulated a lot of new oil exploration and production projects that involve loads of underwater works," he said.

Wong added that being based in Pasir Gudang, Johor, the area's potential market was also promising with Port of Tanjung Pelepas, Johor Port and the upcoming bio-diesel hub in Tanjung Langsat.

"By fostering 30 years of experience of Unidive Marine Services Pte Ltd in Singapore, we hope to extend our expertise here in Malaysia as well.

"It will be a gradual process of transferring the commercial underwater diving skills in Malaysia as the country has an enormous pool of talented divers working in the freelance market," he said.

Wong said Unidive offered the widest range of marine underwater works with expertise in harbour diving, offshore work, salvage, explosive ordnance disposal, ship repair and maintenance.

"In detail, we have done works of cofferdam or insert plate, pipe installation, hull cleaning, jack up rig spud can cleaning and inspection, pile removal for harbour construction, propeller polishing, rope access works, salvage, thrusters installation, underwater welding among others," he said.

Furthermore, Wong said the company has class approvals from many marine classification societies namely American Bureau of



A Unidive diver inspecting a vessel underwater.

Shipping, Det Norske Veritas, Germanischer Lloyd, Lloyd's Register, Class NK and other societies from Korea and China

"Thus, we basically can do ship inspection for any kind of vessel from around the globe," he said.

Performance wise, Unidive Malaysia has worked with a few of the major players such as MISC, Mearsk, K-Line and MOL.

"Our goal is to provide the best service and our clients will act as referrals to other customers seeking such services.

"The industry works in such a way where you do not need to advertise as your quality of service will pull the crowd by word of mouth.

"Although Unidive is based in Johor, we are willing to carry out services throughout the country in order to get a stronger foothold in the local market," he said, adding that Unidive had done underwater works in Penang and Bintulu.

"Most of our divers are ex-navy personnel with valid diving licences and adequate experience.

"Also, we use up-to-date complete range of equipment comprising 20ft containerised diving systems, diver LARS, compressors, KM band masks, hydraulic power packs and tools," he added.