

# UAC forms biogas JV with Italian firm

THE NATION

UNIVERSAL ADSORBENTS & Chemicals has established UAC Energy, a subsidiary for design and construction of biogas plants, in a joint venture with Sebigas, a leading Italian biogas firm, to seize business opportunities in Thailand and elsewhere in Asean.

UAC expects revenue from this joint venture to exceed Bt1 billion by 2017.

According to UAC's chief executive officer, Kitti Jivacate, the subsidiary will oversee biogas-plant design and construction as well as providing operation and maintenance service for plants in Southeast Asia.

Sebigas is a listed firm in Italy affiliated with the Seci Group, which is part of the Maccaferri Industrial Group.

The company has been in the

biogas business for more than five years, engaging as a contractor in the design and construction of more than 30 plants, and is the owner of 17 biogas plants in Italy.

In addition to biogas, the company is involved in solar power, wind energy, biomass and geothermal power.

## Alternative energy

This joint venture is expected to help UAC expand its capabilities in alternative energy, both domestically and overseas, helping to fulfil the Thai government's policy to support investments in biogas for electricity generation from 600 megawatts now to 3,600MW by 2021, Kitti said.

He said the first project the new subsidiary would undertake was UAC's Mae Taeng 2 compressed-biomethane-gas venture in Chiang Mai province, one of

the nine projects in the North that the Energy Policy and Planning Office of the Energy Ministry is supporting financially.

Meanwhile, there are six or seven inquiries about biogas design and construction projects that UAC Energy hopes to secure by the end of this month.

UAC vice president Chatpol Prasobchoke said this joint venture should help boost UAC's revenue and business opportunities on a continuing basis as Sebigas has the technology and expertise for designing, building, operating and maintaining biogas plants. UAC's business should be able to expand rapidly and in a stable manner, both domestically and in Southeast Asia.

UAC expects the new JV subsidiary to begin generating revenue next year, and it should earn more than Bt1 billion in revenue by 2017.