



» ASIA-PACIFIC EXPANSION PLAN

Lens maker opens \$30m Jurong facility

LEADING lens maker Carl Zeiss has opened a \$30 million facility in Singapore as part of its strategy to expand in the Asia-Pacific region.

Its Advanced Imaging Centre, which started operations yesterday, will serve a number of functions for the German firm, whose products are found in microscopes, digital cameras and prescription eyeglasses.

It will be the company's regional information technology and administrative backbone, as well as a research and development centre.

Carl Zeiss customers will be able to visit the centre and test its products, as well as use the equipment to carry out their own research.

Clients in the medical sector, for example, can analyse delicate tissue samples using the company's high-resolution microscopes.

The Asia-Pacific is the fastest growing market for the firm and contributed 16 per cent of its global revenue last year. Carl Zeiss employs 120 people in Singapore, but the new facility at the International Business Park in Jurong East is expected to raise this number to at least 200 by 2010.

Most of the jobs in demand are for the highly skilled, such as scientists, engineers and technicians.

Dr Hermann Gerlinger, head of Carl Zeiss Semiconductor Technology, said Singapore was chosen because of its "geography, business-friendly regulations, continuous growth rates and language capabilities".

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