

PRESS RELEASE



Ginga launches new South China fuel oil contract

Singapore 23 February 2004 - Ginga Petroleum (“Ginga”) announces the launch of a forward physical contract for fuel oil cargoes traded on a C&F Huangpu basis. The semi-physical forward contract will provide a new trading instrument to the traders involved in the China fuel oil market. This is in response to the demand of the trading community to have a new benchmark reflective of the supply-demand situation in South China.

The South China fuel oil assessments are calculated by Dow Jones Newswires reporters, and are published at the end of each trading day on the Dow Jones Energy Service and the Dow Jones Chinese Financial Wire.

Heading this team to pioneer this contract is Chen Hong Bing, who joined Ginga last year to embark on this initiative. Prior to Ginga, he held various senior positions in major Chinese oil trading companies, Sinochem and Chinaoil from 1993-2000, mainly in charge of the product trading. From 2001- Jan 2003, he was the Managing Director of OILspace Ltd Singapore. Hong Bing has indepth knowledge in product trading business and an extensive network in the industry.

Last year alone, China imported about 20 million tons of fuel oil, making it the world’s largest importer of fuel oil. With China joining the World Trade Organisation (WTO), this import demand is expected to grow even further this year when China opens its oil sector, creating a greater need for risk management tools.

“This C&F Huangpu fuel oil contract is developed in partnership with our clients and as a service broking house, we are committed to developing new markets and creating new opportunities for our clients. We are confident that Hong Bing and his team has the knowledge, ability and reputation to develop this contract in a rapidly growing industry” said Hiromichi Niimura, Managing Director Ginga Petroleum.

Notes to editors

About Ginga Petroleum

Ginga Petroleum provides brokerage services for oil, petrochemical, tanker freight and coal in physical and derivative products covering the global markets. Ginga specializes in the open spec naphtha and petrochemical forward market in Asia.