

Work begins on major energy sector project

SITE PREPARATION for construction of one of this country's major energy sector projects, the Methanol Holdings (Trinidad) Limited (MHTL), commenced last Monday.

Construction of the US\$1.2 billion ammonia/urea/melamine (AUM) petrochemical facility at the PT Lisas Industrial Estate, will utilise integrated ammonia and urea plants to produce melamine and urea ammonium nitrate (UAN) 32 solution.

It is the first of five energy-related projects, which Government anticipates will break ground in 2006, a Ministry of Energy statement yesterday said.

It highlighted the planned projects

endorsed by the Government including the ANSA UAN, Alutrint Aluminum, Alcoa Aluminum and Essar Steel—all with downstream spin-offs as well.

Prime Minister Patrick Manning in December 2005 said that the five projects which are scheduled for initial construction in 2006—the cost of it all amounting to US\$7.4 billion, would generate 17,500 jobs in the construction stage and just about 3,000 permanent jobs.

The Ministry of Energy release issued yesterday explained: "The AUM project is a step forward in MHTL's long-standing intent to move further downstream from primary petrochemicals.