

Amkor Technology Philippines sets the stage for future-tech products

Partnership with Meralco provides vital link for success



Amkor Technology Philippines is one of the world's largest manufacturers of electronics and semiconductors. Since establishing operations here 30 years ago, the company completely shifted its Korean assembly lines to the Philippines.

Data from the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Foundation, Inc. show that electronics still continue to top the country's export numbers, posting a 1st quarter 2017 increase of 21 percent compared to the same time last year amounting to US\$5.58 billion.

Among the sector's frontrunners is Amkor Technology Philippines (ATP), one of the world's largest producers of micro-electro-mechanical systems (MEMs), semiconductor packaging, and test services. The company manufactures circuitry and electronics for next-level breakthroughs like sensors for self-parking vehicles and connectivity for devices in the coming wave of the Internet of Things.

As such innovations are manufactured under exacting compliance and quality control, ATP needs to have its working parts all lined up. It is a strict regimen the company refers to as "continuity of supply."

This sequence demands flawless uninterrupted contributions from facilities, resources, raw materials, logistics, and of course, energy.

Steady business migration

Setting up shop in the Philippines almost 30 years ago, cost efficiencies and other considerations later led ATP to cease its Korean operations and transfer this assembly line to a second new facility in the Philippines.

"There was close collaboration between ATP and Meralco. Meticulous planning between our teams allowed for early energization, which enabled the seamless transfer of our entire assembly line," said Norberto "Bing" Viera, President of Amkor Technology Philippines.

"Secondly, Meralco dedicated an operations and maintenance team to perform 24/7 inspection and ensure the reliability and quality of power for our two plants. It was a challenge and we could not have done it without Meralco."

Meralco sets stage for further ATP expansion

A premier electronics and semicon technology manufacturer, ATP's rise is impressive.

The company reported growth in the 3rd and 4th quarter of last year, registering a 10 percent year-on-year increase in volume from 2015 to 2016. The amount of products it builds has grown "in leaps and bounds," said Viera.

"We're building close to 2 billion units per quarter. That's a lot. And we see up to 10 percent more growth. We have more plans to expand in the next five years."

Anticipating growing energy requirements from the opening of a third new ATP plant, Meralco is ready to build a dedicated line and a dedicated substation.

"This is why we don't have a supplier-customer relationship, but rather a partnership. Meralco gives us womb-to-tomb services," said Viera.

Belief in the Filipino workforce

ATP's business forecast is encouraging, and their central location is logistically ideal for bread and butter Asia-based markets in Hong Kong, China, Japan, and Singapore, as well as the US.

It has breadth in product portfolio and continuity of supply. Furthermore, their sector growth is fueled by the automotive industry, which is precisely where ATP is quite strong.

Their current employee population including service providers and outsourced workforce is at 10,000. They are looking to hire more given their expansion.

The company has a strong affinity to the Philippines, due to our proficiency in English and the availability of local engineers.

And with the market still "liking and buying" its products and a hiring spree in the works, Amkor projects its bottom line to grow.

It is for their contribution to the Philippine economy that ATP has been named a Meralco Corporate Industrial Luminary for 2016.

"Amkor belongs to a sector that happens to be the largest contributor to manufacturing. They help establish the Philippines as a globally competitive business environment for semiconductor and electronics technology," said Victor S. Genuino, Meralco Vice President and Head of Corporate Business Group. "Meralco will always do its part as a responsible partner to help sustain the sector's growth."

To learn more about Meralco partnerships, speak to your Relationship Manager, or contact the Meralco Corporate Partners at 16210, or email corporatepartners@meralco.com.ph, or visit www.meralco.com.ph/corporatepartners.

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President
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Amkor linemen regularly conduct inspections to ensure that ATP (seen in the background) continues to receive reliable and quality power for its strict manufacturing requirements.



Meralco Relationship Manager Erwin Esteban and Meralco Technical Services Engineer Dennis Borja (extreme left and extreme right respectively), meet with ATP President Norberto "Bing" Viera (2nd from left) and ATP Facilities Department Head Rodney Baynosa for a courtesy call.



Esteban (extreme left), Meralco Vice President and Head, Corporate Business Group Victor S. Genuino (2nd from right), and Meralco Head, Private Sector Relationship Management Victor Risma IV (extreme right) pose with Viera during the 6th Luminaries Awards Night.