

\$10m RBR only ASX junior exposed to \$70b African LNG boom

You will not read much about it in the mainstream press, but \$70 billion worth of LNG construction is set to start any day on the Mozambique coast. And there is only one junior company listed on the ASX which offers investors exposure to this enormous opportunity.

BY STAFF WRITERS

RBR, with a market capitalisation of just \$10 million, has spent the past five years laying the foundations to capture a slice of this huge industry by supplying it with crucial labour hire and training services. And now its day is about to come.

The world's biggest petroleum companies, including ExxonMobil, Total, Eni and Shell, are planning to build several massive LNG projects on the Mozambique peninsula.

The first of these, which is operated by French giant Total, has already been given full approval by its owners. Construction of the supporting infrastructure is now underway, including the first phase of the marine facilities (temporary beach landing), and preparations are being made to build the huge workers' accommodation camp.

The second of the LNG projects, which is operated by ExxonMobil, is expected to be given the official go-ahead by its owners early in the new year.

Analysts estimate that up to 50,000 workers will be needed to build these LNG projects, with locals accounting for a substantial share of this workforce due to the Mozambican Government's local content requirements.

These workers need to be identified, medically assessed for their fitness to work, trained and matched with suitable employers. And this is where Perth-based RBR fits firmly into the picture.

As part of its strategy to assess, train and provide workers to the LNG projects, RBR has opened a training centre in the Mozambican city of Palma, which is close to the LNG construction sites.

RBR managing director Richard Carcenac said staff and equipment had already been allocated and the initial focus is on helping workers to secure the internationally-recognised ECITB International Health and Safety Passport, as well as a range of workplace skills needed by the LNG construction industry.

"RBR's centre started training Mozambican citizens from the local stakeholder communities in August with the aim of creating employment opportunities in semi-skilled and skilled roles," Mr Carcenac says.

"RBR has received expressions of interest from contractors operating in the area which want to hire the graduates as they become available, with several already interviewed for future positions once construction ramps up."

Mr Carcenac said RBR's capabilities in Mozambique gave the company a significant point of difference. "Other labour providers focus on recruiting 'work-ready' candidates but do not have RBR's capacity to develop their own workforce with internationally recognised qualifications," he says.

RBR is also teaming up with Mozambique training specialist Regional Offshore Training Centre (ROTC) in a deal which will see the companies combine their respective strengths in skills training to tender for contracts and supply services primarily to the maritime and LNG offshore construction industries in Mozambique.

Mr Carcenac said the agreement was aimed at enabling RBR and ROTC to offer comprehensive, accredited training courses to the offshore LNG and maritime sectors in the Mozambique market.

RBR has similar alliances with other specialist service providers, including in scaffolding and the provision of blue-collar ex-pat labour, to ensure it can maximise the amount of work it gets from the LNG construction industry and other employers in the booming region.

"We believe RBR is ideally placed to provide a wide range of training and labour hire services to what will soon be one of the biggest construction sites in the world," Mr Carcenac said.

