

Corporate news

Two more companies with principal operations in China may have stumbled over corporate governance issues. Yesterday, Catalist-listed **E3 Holdings**, which is developing a three sq km plot of land in Jilin province in China into oil and chemical production facilities, said that it had received seven poison pen letters in September. The allegations in the letters are understood to pertain to issues surrounding some of the company's recent projects, including a now withdrawn attempt to buy a stake in a Chinese oil refinery, as well as general concerns with the company's recent strategy. Separately, Reyphon Agriceutical, which produces gibberellic acids, a plant growth regulator, yesterday announced that its principal subsidiary 'may face shortfall of working capital' due to 'poor operation management'. Reyphon, a subsidiary of SGX-listed **Sinomem Technology**, said that it was reorganising its subsidiary's board of directors and management, and may even shut down production plants in Jiangxi province. (BT)



CapitaLand has made about \$1 billion worth of sales in two projects in the Middle East. In a statement yesterday, the company said that it had sold 849 units out of a total of 1,559 units in the two developments since June. The developments are the 691-unit Raffles City Bahrain and the 868-unit Rihan Heights in Abu Dhabi. Raffles City Bahrain is owned and developed by the Syariah-compliant Raffles City Bahrain Fund, which is managed by CapitaLand, while Rihan Heights is the first phase of CapitaLand's 49%-owned associate company Capitala's US\$5-6 billion flagship integrated development Arzanah. CapitaLand said that it had launched 750 residential units of its 80%-owned The Vista, Vietnam and 590 residential units of its 49%-owned The Orchard Residency, India. While The Vista units have been fully booked, 309 units at The Orchard Residency have been sold. In Thailand, TCC Capital Land, CapitaLand's 40%-owned joint venture with TCC Land, has sold or booked over 2,400 residential units to date. (BT)



Yellow Pages last night threw in the towel in a bidding war for exhibition services firm **Cityneon** and said that it would accept a rival 61 cent a share offer from Malaysia's Star Publications. The directory publisher, which owns 39.2% of Cityneon, said that it was withdrawing its own 60 cent a share offer announced on Oct 6 and has obtained permission from the Securities Industry Council to do so. Yellow Pages first made a 55 cent a share offer in July. Star, which publishes Malaysia's largest English newspaper, made a bid of 58 cents on Oct 2, raising it to 61 cents yesterday after Yellow Pages hit back with a 60 cent offer on Oct 6. The Malaysian company had said previously that Cityneon managing director Ko Chee Wah and executive director Lim Poh Hock were acting in concert with it to make the offer. Last night, Yellow Pages said that it had decided to realise its investment in Cityneon. 'In light of current market conditions . . . (Star's) offer provides the company with an appropriate exit opportunity, having regard to the significant holdings held by the company and the past trading liquidity in Cityneon shares, at no transaction cost,' it said in a statement to the Singapore Exchange. (BT)



Oil and gas rigging equipment supplier **KTL Global** has formed a joint venture to design and manufacture winches for the **marine and offshore** industry. It said on Wednesday that it would take a 57.5% share in KTL Logan. Partners include US-based Logan Industries International. Logan will own 20% of the venture, which has an issued capital of \$1,000. The other investors are Sea Reef LLC, Centenio Resources Pte Ltd and Derrick Tan Yoke Pin. In addition, KTL has proposed an exclusive joint marketing alliance with Logan and Sea Reef to market and distribute winches produced by the venture in South-east Asia, China, Japan, South Korea and Australia. (BT)



Supply chain management company **BH Global Marine**, which specialises in equipment for the marine and oil and gas industries, has posted a 3% increase in net profit to \$5.09 million for the third quarter ended Sept 30. Revenue fell 6% to \$22.7 million. EPS came to 1.21 cents, up from 1.18 cents in the corresponding quarter last year. Marine electrical equipment accounted for 90% of turnover, or \$20.5 million, although this is 8% lower than for 3Q07, 'due to 3Q07 being an exceptional quarter where some projects in 4Q07 were brought forward to 3Q07', BH Global said. Marine consumables, which contributed the remaining \$2.17 million, grew 16% as more orders were secured from shipchandlers and shipyards' MRO (maintenance, repair and overhaul) business. (BT)

