

\$2b plan to generate airport electricity

By ANDY HO

CHINA Light and Power is to invest \$2 billion to supply electricity for the Chek Lap Kok airport scheme and its related projects.

The company is expecting the Port and Airport Development Strategy (PADS) programme to stimulate the economy and result in an additional one to 1.5 per cent growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) around 1994 at the height of the construction.

Mr Steven Poon Kwoklim, director and general manager of the company, said: "Historically, a one per cent GDP growth corresponds to a 1.1 to 1.2 per cent rise in demand for electricity."

He said other economic growth indirectly associated with PADS would be difficult to estimate.

Mr Poon said the company's existing generating capacity, coupled with those already in the pipeline, would be adequate to cope with the PADS demand.

However, the firm will need to install six new substations to distribute electricity for the future airport, its rail and road links to the urban areas, nearby Tung Chung new town, and the West Kowloon Reclamation.

A new 400 kilovolt substation at Yau Ma Tei for the West Kowloon reclamation area alone carries a price tag of \$1 billion.

It will become the company's biggest substation when it is commissioned in 1995.

"But it is possible that our Yau Ma Tei substation will be delayed for a year or two, depending on the progress of the West Kowloon Reclamation project. We are flexible in our commission date," Mr Poon said.

The main substation for connecting northern Lantau with the company's power supply system will be built at Sham Shui Kok close to the future North Lantau Expressway.

This 132 kilovolt substation, costing \$200 million, is scheduled to be commissioned next year. It will be hooked up with the existing Castle Peak power plants

through three submarine cables.

The \$300 million submarine cables, at 8.1 kilometres the longest in the region, have been laid and will become fully operational in 1992.

The substation will also be connected with the 300 megawatt gas turbine power station at Penny's Bay, which will come on stream next April, at the northeastern tip of Lantau.

The company will spend another \$150 million on power lines to deliver electricity from Sham Shui Kok to other parts of northern Lantau.

Two \$50 million substations will be constructed at Tung Chung and the Chek Lap Kok airport site.

A new \$200 million Chai Wan Kok 132 kilovolt substation will be commissioned in 1996 for the Kwai Tsing section of the airport rail system.

The supply facilities will also be connected with other future power sources to be commissioned between 1992 and 1996 - the two 900 megawatt Daya Bay nuclear reactor units, 1,200 megawatt pumped storage power station in Guangdong province, and the 6,000 megawatt coal-fired plant to be built at Black Point in the Western New Territories.

He said \$1.95 billion needed for the supply facilities for the PADS projects would come from loans and retained earnings.