

Sodexo acquires local SME Kim Yew Electrical

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GLOBAL services firm Sodexo announced on Thursday that it has acquired Singapore facilities management provider Kim Yew Electrical & Sanitary.

Sodexo declined to disclose the value of the deal.

With this acquisition, Kim Yew will now operate as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sodexo Singapore under its new name Sodexo Kim Yew.

Led by founder and managing director Jim Tan since 1985, Sodexo Kim Yew provides hard facilities management (FM) services to education and public sector clients, with a team of 450 employees. Hard FM services include electrical and mechanical engineering, as well as technical maintenance.

Sodexo Kim Yew aims to reinforce Sodexo's technical expertise in Singapore, according to a statement by the firm. Its edge in hard FM services will complement Sodexo Singapore's strengths in soft FM, such as food services, reception and cleaning, enhancing their service offering and addressing the needs of the growing integrated FM services market in the region.

Mr Tan told *The Business Times*: "Through this sale, I am confident that Sodexo Kim Yew will have an even stronger position in the market."

As both Sodexo and Kim Yew started off as family businesses, they share the belief that their employees are their "greatest assets", he said.

"As an international company with a strong focus on health and safety, I am confident that Sodexo will bring best-in-class practices to develop the company and provide further growth opportunities to our employees," added Mr Tan.

He will continue to drive the day-to-day business as managing director, supported by Sodexo's team of facilities managers.

According to Sodexo, there will be no changes in Sodexo Kim Yew in the short term as the company intends to understand the latter's culture and find out how best to work together.

Johnpaul Dimech, Asia Pacific region chairman & Singapore country president, Sodexo, said: "By blending the strengths of our teams, we are able to boost our quality of life positioning and provide our consumers with a greater diversity of services and optimise greater efficiencies."

Sodexo has been in Singapore for 35 years, employing 1,400 people and providing services across a range of industries that include public agencies, multinational corporations, educational institutions, healthcare institutions and offshore facilities.