

KCE SEES DIP IN Q2 REVENUE

KCE Electronics (KCE), manufacturer of copper-clad laminate, has forecast that its revenue in the second quarter would be lower than in the first quarter after operations were halted at its plant for one week in May.

Company director Panja Senadisai said yesterday that the company stopped the plant operation last month because of problems with machinery.

The company is also faced with the prospect of foreign-exchange losses due to the weak euro.

"The company would still make a profit but the figure might be lower than the first quarter. However, the company has been getting orders continuously as the operation returns to normal," Panja said.

The company has maintained its revenue target for the year of US\$240 million (Bt7.7 billion). It expects earnings this year to be better than last year due to greater demand for its products in line with the global economic recovery.

Panja said the European economic crisis had not affected the company yet

and KCE is continuing to receive order from clients in Europe. Further, the company this year has expanded its market into Japan, which helps to reduce the risk.

KCE's stock price yesterday closed at Bt7.10, up 20 satang from Tuesday.

Compass East Industry (Thailand), another electronic manufacturer, yesterday reported third-quarter earnings - ending April 30 - of Bt1.35 million, a 71.39-per-cent drop from Bt4.81 million over the same period last year.

The company explained that the decline in profit was because the cost of goods sold increased by Bt1.39 million, or 12.96 per cent. Compass' sales increased by Bt3.30 million or 30.32 per cent because the sales of major and minor products improved.

The company has also disposed of its investment in the horizontal plating machines business.

Compass' share price yesterday closed at Bt2.88, up 30 satang from Tuesday.

THE NATION