

QUICK NEWS**KCE says Q3 performance its best this year**

KCE Electronics, a producer and exporter of printed circuit boards, has announced that its third-quarter result was its best of the year.

During that period, the company marked a new sales and profit record for the fifth consecutive quarter – with total sales revenue rising to Bt2.9 billion for a net profit of Bt611.1 million.

That was an increase of 18.1 per cent and 86.6 per cent respectively after it recorded Bt2.5 billion in sales revenue for a Bt327.5 million net profit for the same period last year.

Its sales revenue also increased as a result of a spike in unit shipments, which the company said was due to substantial improvements in its manufacturing efficiency that enabled its factory to increase production.

KCE's gross margin as a percentage of sales increased from 31.44 per cent to 31.76 per cent year on year, which it said was due to the increased productivity and foreign-exchange effects.

It said the significant year-on-year improvement was also the result of increased utilisation of capacity and stabilised manufacturing costs.

The company's normalised operating profit in the third quarter was Bt496.0 million, or 16.5 per cent of sales, which was primarily attributed to the revenue growth and an increase in the gross-margin rate.

In September, subsidiary KCE Technology booked its final compensation from an insurance claim of Bt101 million. As a result, it posted at Bt611.1 million net profit in the third quarter.

For the first nine months of the year, the group's consolidated sales increased from Bt6.8 billion to Bt8.5 billion and its net profit rose from Bt796.8 million to Bt1.5 billion.

Year on year, its basic earnings per share increased from Bt1.73 to Bt2.86.