

Secure energy firm Chloride plans expansion

By **VICTOR KATHEYAS**

THE Chloride Group, which provides secure energy solutions for critical business applications, plans to expand in Singapore.

Etienne Guerou, Chloride's vice-president in charge of South-east Asia, said the company will increase its Singapore headcount about 60 per cent this year.

Chloride, which is listed on the London Stock Exchange and is included in the FTSE 250 index, is a multinational company active in areas related to secure electrical power.

The group makes and services uninterruptible power supply (UPS) units and customises them to suit clients' needs.

These units help protect critical systems such as da-

ta centres from the damaging effects of a power surge or failure by regulating the flow of electricity and, if necessary, drawing electricity from a secondary source, such as a battery.

Chloride CEO Tim Cobbold said he is "committed to growth in this region" despite current economic challenges.

First, he said, many governments are considering fiscal stimulus programmes to revive their economies. And many of these programmes involve investments in infrastructure, which augers well for the secure power sector.

"The remorseless growth of digitisation", as evidenced by increased Internet traffic and the growth of data centres, will also ensure the sector remains buoyant, said Mr Cobbold.

And while customers may reconsider purchasing UPS units during the slowdown, many will want to service and maintain their existing ones.

Chloride's clients here include Barclays, SingTel, Keppel Offshore and Marine and the Land Transport Authority.

Mr Cobbold said Singapore will continue to be a hub for the company, due to its talent mix and its geographic proximity to other markets.

Mr Guerou said Singapore is well-placed because of its proximity to Malaysia and Indonesia, which are significant energy players, as well as Myanmar, which, if opened to investors, will present many opportunities in the energy sector.