

# New joint venture to see jobs in pipeline

By **MATT CUNNINGHAM**

HUNDREDS of Territory jobs are tipped to be created after a deal was signed yesterday between a Top End maintenance company and a global energy giant.

Regional and Northern Maintenance Services (RANms) signed the agreement with the Scotland-based Wood Group to form RANms Wood Engineering Australia.

The Darwin-based joint venture will bid for operations and maintenance contracts worth up to \$500 million a year in the Australian oil and gas industry.

RANms CEO Paul

Mahoney said the venture had the potential to create hundreds of mostly white-collar jobs in the NT.

"We're in various stages of tendering for work worth up to half a billion dollars a year both in the Territory and Western Australia," he said.

"That's without ... possibilities in Indonesia, New Zealand, Vietnam and PNG."

Wood Group Asia-Pacific regional director Jim Rodgers said his company had been attracted to the Territory because of its "can-do" attitude.

The Wood Group is expected to draw on its 22,000 employees to train NT staff.

"We felt that the future of the Australian market would be here," Mr Rodgers said.

Regional Development and Business Minister Kon Vatskalis said the agreement was significant.

"The economic spin-offs could be huge, not to mention the potential to create hundreds of new jobs as the business expands its operations," he said.

"The Government is very pleased one of the world's leading energy service companies has chosen to base its new operations here in Darwin and form a partnership with one of our local businesses."



**GLOBAL AND LOCAL:** Jim Rodgers and Tim Proctor ink the deal in Darwin between RANms and the Wood Group