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MEASAT-2's LAUNCH IN SECOND WEEK OF NOVEMBER

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 24 (Bernama) -- Malaysia's second satellite, Malaysia East Asia Satellite (Measat-2), is likely to be launched in the second week of November this year, a top Binariang Sdn Bhd official said today.

He said Measat-2 was more or less ready to be launched from Kourou, French Guiana, where Measat-1 was sent into orbit on Jan 12, this year.

However, he said the delay for the launch of Measat-2 was because the final decision was still forthcoming from "ArabSat-2B", the other co-passenger on the dual Ariane-4 rocket launcher.

Binariang is the owner and operator of Measat-1 and is making preparations with Arianespace, the European consortium, to launch the second satellite.

He also said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who has been instrumental in Malaysia inculcating satellite technology, would most likely attend Measat-2's launching in Kourou.

The Measat Satellite Control Centre which was fully operational since January 1996 was currently being upgraded for telemetry tracking and control of Measat-2 -- BERNAMA

MR/rn AO