

09/06/1997

Alcatel Telecom plans to expand activities here

ALCATEL Telecom will reposition and enlarge its partnership and activities in Malaysia to take better advantage of the opportunities offered by the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC).

"Because of the scope and perspective of the MSC, we are now reassessing our global partnership with Malaysia so that we can best meet the challenges raised by this fantastic initiative," Alcatel general manager Gerard Dega said in Paris.

"The development of the MSC can effectively rely on Alcatel's unique range of telecommunications technologies and expertise.

"We are ready to engage in the set up of the most advanced infrastructure for the MSC as we further develop our research and development activities in multimedia," he said in a statement released in Kuala Lumpur.

Alcatel is one of the 41 founding members of the MSC. It was given the pioneer blue helmet by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamd, who is now away on two months leave, at the ground-breaking ceremony for Cyberjaya last month.

At present, Alcatel is running a software development centre in its Penang-based joint-venture where some Malaysian engineers have been working on corporate programmes.

Dega said the company has decided to set up a regional competence and support centre for all multimedia networks that are or will be installed in Asia. This new centre will be staffed with highly skilled engineers in multimedia and broadband and will be loated with the new headquarters of Alcatel Telecom in Cyberjaya.

It also signed a memorandum of understanding with Universiti Telekom, which will be setting up the multimedia university in Cyberjaya. The partnership include a multimedia chair and research and development activities for the training of PhD students, sponsorship of scholarships and access to some of the most advanced research and training centres in Europe.

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