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First four flagship projects to cost RM1.6b

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - The pilot projects under the first four of the seven Multimedia Super Corridor flagship applications are estimated to cost RM1.6 billion.

Multimedia Development Corporation executive chairman Tan Sri Othman Yeop said this today.

"This is only the estimation. The actual costs will only be known after companies or consortia bidding for the 15 pilot projects, have submitted their proposals," he said.

The four flagship applications are electronic government, multi-purpose card, smart schools, and telemedicine.

Of the 15 pilot projects, five each would be for electronic government and smart schools, four for telemedicine and one for multi-purpose card.

The other three flagship applications are borderless marketing, Research and Development clusters and worldwide manufacturing web.

Othman told reporters this after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad launched the MSC Concept Request For Proposals here.

With the launching of the CRFPs, Othman said Malaysian and international consortia could start proposing the best solutions for the pilot projects.

He said the CRFPs were developed by MDC with the help of government agencies and experts from world-class companies.

They would provide greater flexibility for consortia and private sector companies to innovate and deliver the best solutions for all the projects.

Asked on the selection process, Othman said MDC and the leading agencies would select the best solutions based on the proposals.

"We would encourage merger among the companies," he said.

For instance, he said the Smart Schools Task Force would pre-select the best-of-breed solutions for each of the five CRFPs independently.

It would then encourage the Malaysian and international consortium chosen to merge the Smart School pilot applications into a single integrated solution.

He said the selection process would be completed by the end of the year and the pilot projects are due for completion in 2000.

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