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LEADING CANADIAN IT FIRMS TO LOCATE IN THE MSC

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 21 (Bernama) -- Malaysia's information technology-friendly investment and regulatory incentives have attracted several Canadian companies to locate their operations in the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC), it was announced today.

Multimedia Development Corporation Sdn Bhd (MDC) executive chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah, who is in Ottawa promoting the MSC, said two Canadian companies have applied for MSC status.

He said over 1,000 companies have expressed keen interest in participating in the corridor and more than 160 companies have submitted their applications for MSC accreditation or MSC status.

Dr Othman was part a Malaysian delegation on a two-day visit to Ottawa to promote the MSC to Canada's high-tech community. His statement was released here today.

During the visit, Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak addressed an investors' conference on behalf of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad attended by almost 300 of Canada's IT/Multimedia and telecommunication companies.

Dr Othman said: "We recognize the fact that Canada has world-renowned expertise in several areas, especially in telecommunications.

"We know that Canada is at the forefront of fibre optic technology and supplied the first submarine cable from Europe to Newfoundland," he added.

The MSC, a 15 x 50 km corridor governed by special cyberlaws, policies and practices, would offer a next generation 2.5-10 Gigabit per second multimedia network through high-tensioned fibreoptic cables, that would enable operating companies to harness the full potential of multimedia.

He added that Canada was also known for having among the best training institutions in the world and many small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

"We hope that this mission will result in the establishment of smart partnerships between Malaysian SMEs and their Canadian counterparts and create a win-win situation for both countries,"

Dr Othman also announced that Newbridge Networks, wholly-owned subsidiary of Newbridge Networks Corporation of Canada, has just been awarded the MSC accreditation, while ITV. Net of Vancouver, the joint venture partner of Manis Coco Sdn Bhd, is involved in the netcasting of "live" events and distance-learning technologies and programmes over the Internet today. -- BERNAMA

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