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Mimos promoting use of microelectronics to SMIs

SMALL and medium scale industries, especially those that are technology-shy should give a look-see to the Microelectronics in Business (MIB) conference and seminar to be held at the Technology Park Malaysia on November 19.

The event, jointly organised by Malaysian Institute of Microelectronics Systems (Mimos) Bhd and UK's Department of Trade and Industry will feature some 60 British companies dealing in microelectronics, looking to form joint ventures or transfer their technology to Malaysian companies.

These companies supply parts, tools and computer aided design software.

Mimos' industrial sector vice president Wan Mohd Salleh said the event is a follow-up to the Prime Minister's presentation of the Multimedia Super Corridor in the UK.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had invited British companies to come to Malaysia for transfer of technology.

Wan said this is part of Mimos' efforts to encourage Malaysian companies to make use of microelectronics to enhance their respective businesses.

He said MIB is targetted at chief executive offices and other decision makers. "They do not have to understand the nuts and bolts of the technology, just the implications.

"What we're going to show them is how easy it is to take advantage of microelectronics," he said.

He added that the small companies need not fear overcommitting themselves and investing in technology that they have no conception of how to use and Mimos is willing to gently guide them along the way, familiarising them with the equipment.

Wan said Mimos actually allows companies to use its equipment, familiarising themselves with the technology to see how the technology can be used to generate good returns.

He recounted one instance of a company in Shah Alam, Board Builders, who wanted to go into printed circuit board manufacturing, but had nothing to start out with.

"We introduced them to the technology. They didn't even know what a PCB is. Now they have three plants, one in PCB assembly, one in PCB fabrication and another in research and are doing very well," he said.

He chided technology-shy companies to come forward and be willing to learn and commit themselves, adding that the currency crisis may be a blessing in disguise as it is forcing local companies to dig deeper into themselves and look at what they are capable of producing.

Meanwhile, Mimos Bhd has signed a 60-year lease agreement with Kulim Technology Park Corp Sdn Bhd (KTPC) to establish a branch office at that park, to cater to the needs of targetted industries in the northern region.

Mimos, which signed the agreement with KTPC at its headquarters in Bukit Jalil yesterday, will be investing some RM18 million in its equipment and building in the research and development area on a 2hasite.

Mimos will be promoting its products and services, assisting small and medium scale industries through product design and development, provide technical support and offer technical facilities to its customers and act as a catalyst for the development of local hi-tech enterprises especially in microelectronics and the related industries.

Kulim High Tech Park, a high tech industrial park project is now into

its second hase of development. Presently, some 132.8ha of the total saleable industrial land in Industrial Zone Phase 1 has been leased to 23 companies.

Some 19 companies signed the lease agreement while the other four companies are expected to conclude the agreement within 1998.

The development of the second phase began in June this year. There is 226.17ha of land to be developed with some 141.75ha of total saleable area. It is expected to be fully developed by the end of next year.

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