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Positive response to MSC concept request

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THE response to the Concept Request For Proposals (CRFPs) for four of the seven flagship applications of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) project is very encouraging, said an official of the Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC).

MDC senior manager (Corporate Communications) Tengku Alina Ibrahim said more than 4,800 companies and individuals have acquired CRFPs through the relevant agencies or downloading from the Internet.

The four applications identified as the Multimedia Development Flagship are electronic government, multipurpose card, smart schools and telemedicine.

The other three - borderless marketing, research and development cluster and worldwide manufacturing web - are categorised under the Multimedia Environment Flagship Applications.

The response is very encouraging because up to August 28, there were 4,802 CRFP documents acquired by companies and individuals.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had launched the CRFP on July 26.

"Most of the individuals and companies acquired CRFPs through the Internet, and the rest bought the documents from relevant institutions.

"The highest response is for CRFPs in electronic government, where 771 CRFPs were purchased from the Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Manpower Planning Unit (Mampu) and 1,107 CRFPs were downloaded through the Internet," she told reporters in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

This was followed by CRFPs for smart schools. A total of 1,342 documents were acquired from the Education Ministry and through the Internet; 1,087 CRFPs for telemedicine from the Health Ministry and Internet and 917 CRFPs for multipurpose card applications from Bank Negara Malaysia and the Internet.

There are five CRFPs for electronic government, five for smart schools, four for telemedicine and one for the multipurpose card.

Alina said the CRFP defines the project objective and outlines its benefits rather than specify the detailed technical requirements in the request for proposals.

From the documents, the companies will be able to cooperate and collaborate with the Government and other companies in a consortium to develop solutions for various pilot projects.

She said the relevant agencies will shortlist the proposals from companies by October. Announcements on the successful consortiums will be made within the first quarter of next year, she added.

Earlier, in a news conference to announce Multimedia Asia '97, Minister of Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Datuk Leo Moggie said 41 companies have been given MSC status to date.

"Other applications for MSC status are in the evaluation stage. It is progressing very well," he said.

Leo Moggie called for local companies and the public to make full use of the exhibition because it will showcase the latest and up-to-date multimedia technology.

"The event is the biggest in Asia. Among the issues discussed during the conference will be the implementation of the MSC, Government policies and their direction," he said.

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