

17/09/1997

RM5b fibre-optic MSC telecoms ready on time

Desmond Ngiam

TELEKOM Malaysia Bhd, responsible for providing a comprehensive RM5 billion telecommunication infrastructure for the Multimedia Super Corridor by June, will meet the deadline "no matter what", said Telekom MSC/Mega project general manager Mohd Taib Hassan.

He said the current local scenario of mega projects being delayed in the midst of a weak currency "will not have a serious impact" on Telekom's activities in laying the required telecommunication infrastructure for the MSC.

The fibre-optic telecommunication system was the catalyst to attract MSC participation, he added.

Taib said the "contracts and purchases" related to the MSC telecommunication project were mostly quoted in ringgit or otherwise had been previously secured before the currency depreciated.

Taib was speaking yesterday after providing an update on Telekom's MSC project at the Multimedia Asia '97 conference and exhibition held at The Mines Resort City.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was present to launch the three-day exhibition cum conference.

Meanwhile, Multimedia Development Corporation (M) Sdn Bhd chief executive officer Dr Mohd Arif Nun said they had to date received 119 applications from companies for MSC status.

Of the total, 44 have been approved and 60 are still being processed, he added.

Contrary to popular belief, the MDC had "not been overwhelmed by foreign applications" and Malaysian companies were now confident in participating in the MSC, Mohd Arif said.

Malaysian companies made up 31.3 per cent of the total applications received, he added, with joint ventures between foreign and Malaysian companies making up 27.7 per cent.

(END)