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Showcase of what Russia has to offer our investors

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - The TechXchange '97 exhibition to be held from Oct 14 to 18 will not only feature the current developments in Russian technology but will also aim to promote Russia as an investment destination for Malaysian companies.

Russian ambassador to Malaysia Vitali Y. Vorobiev said the exhibition will allay fears that investors may have of security and safety in Russia.

"We want to show that Russia has a lot to offer in terms of business opportunity and technology," he told a press conference at Le Proton Exhibitions Services Sdn Bhd yesterday.

He said the exhibition will showcase products of over 100 Russian companies.

"This is the first time ever a trade exhibition of this kind is held for Russian companies and it is interesting that it will be held outside Russia," he said.

Vorobiev said contrary to popular belief, Russian technology was among the best in the world and it was undergoing a change in emphasis from military to civilian-based.

He added the exhibition was the result of a suggestion made by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to Russian representatives some time ago.

"We found the Prime Minister's idea very interesting and promising," he said.

He added that the TextXchange '97 exhibition would serve as a meeting place for Russian and Malaysian companies to form business alliances which would mutually benefit the economies of both countries.

"There is great potential for bilateral trade between Russia and Malaysia with the opening up of the Russian economy."

In 1995, a record trade figure of US\$828 million was posted mainly due to the purchase of MiG fighter aircraft by the Royal Malaysian Air Force.

The exhibition will be launched on Oct 14 by Dr Mahathir at the Mines International Exhibition Centre, Kuala Lumpur.

It is jointly organised by Le Proton Exhibitions and the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology with two Russian companies, Novotek Group and Machinoexport Group.

The event is supported by Standards and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia Bhd and the official telecommunications provider is Telekom Malaysia Bhd.

The New Straits Times is the official newspaper for the exhibition.

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