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Six agreements, 2 MOUs signed

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LOS ANGELES, Tues: Six agreements and two memorandums of understanding (MOUs) in various commercial activities in the information technology (IT) sector were signed between Malaysian and US parties, witnessed by Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad here yesterday.

Malaysia's Quantum Parallel (QP) entered into an agreement with Thomson Sun Interactive (TSI) to allow the former to market TSI's OpenTV product line in Malaysia.

The product, which is targeted for telecommunication and broadcast companies, enables interactivity via the television. QP's managing director Azwan Mohd Noor Ariffin said the company is looking forward to working with network operators and content providers to provide for interactive television using the technology from TSI.

The targeted applications, he said, will include distance-learning, home shopping and citizens' access in an electronic government environment.

Although QP is a new company, the joint-venture between Thomson and Sun Interactive which formed TSI is an established name. Together, the TSI joint-venture capitalises on Sun Microsystems' expertise in network management and Thomson's leadership in consumer electronics.

KUB IT, a member of the KUB group, meanwhile, signed an MOU with the American Science Applications International Corp (SAIC).

The MOU will pave the way for both companies to work together in pursuing business opportunities in broad areas within the IT and systems integration areas including programme planning, systems design and development.

These activities will be jointly pursued within the wide area of businesses such as distance learning, electronic government, intelligent cities and transportation and information protection.

Principally, the partnership between both companies will participate actively in the Multimedia Super-Corridor project and will later strive to become an exporter in IT services throughout the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) region.

With the MOU, among others, KUB will be allowed to access SAIC's technical capabilities and SAIC will supply the appropriate mechanisms for technology transfer. It will also provide for the international markets and projects.

Meanwhile, KUB will allow market access to its key markets within Malaysia, its main government and business decision-makers to assist in marketing of the partnership's activities, as well as to key decision-makers throughout the Asean region and provide guidance on local customs and business practices.

Other agreements signed yesterday basically provide for timeframes for groundwork to be done before entering into more concrete agreements.

Cambro Technology signed an MOU with US-based Oracle while the Todd-AO studios entered into one with Malaysian-based Infra Kekal. Other MOUs were between Malaysia's Commercenet and Open Market Inc; Utusan PNMB with Excalibur Technologies, Barn Technologies and Silicon Graphics Malaysia and Arab-Malaysian group and US-based computer expert Mr Shahril Ibrahim.

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