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MSC-Projects

TELEKOM MALAYSIA SIGNS TWO IT PROJECTS

By: Azman Ujang

LONDON, May 19 (Bernama) -- Telekom Malaysia Berhad today signed two memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with telecommunications giant GEC-Marconi Ltd to manufacture products in Malaysia that are used by information technology (IT) companies worldwide.

The signing took place at the British-Italian company's research and development (R&D) facility at Caswell, 90km from London and was witnessed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Dr Mahathir arrived shortly earlier for a five-day visit to Britain mainly to promote Malaysia's Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC).

The first MOU is for the manufacture of gallium arsenide wireless communication products (a high-frequency semi-conductor) which entails an investment of US\$115 million (about RM287.5 million) to be started in the MSC, and due to be operational within two years.

MSC is an area 15km by 50km being developed as a hub for world-class corporations to locate their business units and R&D facilities to serve regional and world markets for multimedia products and services.

The second MOU is for the manufacture of optical amplifier used for sending signals over fibre-optic. The plant, to be set up in Kulim, will see investments of RM40 million over five years.

This facility is a joint venture between Telekom Malaysia and Marconi SPA of Italy, the Italian subsidiary of GEC-Marconi.

Dr Mahathir told Malaysian reporters the MoUs were very significant for Malaysia as they involved transfer of high technology to Malaysians as well as a further boost to the development of MSC.

Telekom Malaysia chief executive officer Datuk Mohamed Said Mohamed Ali described the MoUs as a highly important development because home-grown Malaysian technology could now find its way for products with world-wide demand.

Marconi SPA managing director Dr Sandro Gualano said Malaysian engineers had developed their own technology in optical amplifier and today's MoU was only to enhance the capability.

Marconi already manufactures telecommunication equipment at another plant in Kulim where about RM40 million had been invested.

Mohamed Said said the equity for participation between Telekom Malaysia and GEC-Marconi in the two ventures had yet to be finalised. -- BERNAMA

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