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UPM-MTDC centre to be launched today

SERDANG, Wed. - The stage is set for the launch of Universiti Pertanian Malaysia-Malaysia Technology Development Corporation Technology Incubation Centre 1 at UPM by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, tomorrow.

The RM3 million centre, home to seven newly formed high-tech companies in the fields of multimedia and biotechnology, had been set up to "nurture" newly formed multimedia and biotechnology companies until they were commercially viable.

UPM's deputy vice-chancellor (development) Professor Datuk Mohd Zohadie Bardaie said the companies would then be relocated to Technology Park Malaysia and the space given out to another company.

"The centre offers an excellent working environment with necessary infrastructure at low rates, and access to the country's fibre optic cable network through Time-Telekom's earth satellite station located near here," Mohd Zohadie said in an interview at the centre today.

He had earlier toured the 1.2 acre facility to check preparations for the launch.

"These companies will also be able to hire UPM lecturers as consultants and campus facilities for research.

"We will also push the companies to apply for Multimedia Super Corridor status so that they can get more incentives from the Government."

Mohd Zohadie said the size of the centre would be increased from 25,000 sq feet to about 90,000 sq feet by the end of the year and would be able to accommodate about 15 companies.

Dr Mahathir will also launch UPM Online and the satellite station.

There will also be a dialogue session between the Prime Minister and about 1,500 students and university staff.

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