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I-STOCK & HOMEBANK LAUNCHED AT EMTEK '98

KUALA LUMPUR, May 29 (Bernama) -- I-Stock, a web site providing real-time KLSE stock quotes and "HomeBank," an Internet financial manager, were launched today at the Kelantan Multimedia, Telecommunication and Electronic Exposition (EMTEK '98) in Tumpat.

The expo was opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"I-Stock" is a "live" share information service offered by Valuenet (M) Sdn Bhd, connecting to the secured online electronic infrastructure provided by ETS Services Sdn Bhd to deliver transactions and payments. I-Stock software technology is developed by PDX Infoworld Sdn Bhd.

The "I-Stock" Web site offers real-time KLSE stock quotes and BERNAMA news over the Internet, says A.H.Teh, R&D Manager at PDX Infoworld.

I-Stock" also provides the charting of indices, interactive search features and a stock tracker for monitoring the intraday performance. It is browser-based which does not require the user to install any dedicated hardware and software to view the information. All that is required is Internet access and a Web browser.

The "I-Stock" Web site located at www.i-stock.com.my is also capable of offering stock trading services.

David Wong, Executive Director of the PDX Group, said "In collaboration with ETS Services Sdn Bhd, "I-Stock" users can directly send trades online to their respective remisers and make payment for trades online real-time from their bank account.

This service will be introduced as soon as regulations on banking and stock trading over the Internet are liberalised by the banks and KLSE."

Currently, Maybank, the largest bank in Malaysia and its subsidiary, Mayban Securities, offer their Kawanku Online banking & shares services connecting to the same ETS's system infrastructure.

"HomeBank" allows home users to carry out banking transactions and bill payment securely over the Internet and provides the simplicity of "drag-and-drop" found in desktop applications.

Its connection with ETS system infrastructure will enable "HomeBank" to deliver online banking services on the Internet using a private key triple DES encryption scheme normally deployed on the intranet.

Teh said the breakthrough here is that "HomeBank" allows the connectivity of authentication devices such as smart card and magnetic swipe card readers to the Web. It communicates with the banks using native communications protocols which means there is no switching costs to those who use "HomeBank".

PDX Infoworld is an MSC-status company which develops software products and tools for the electronic delivery of services including statement presentment, bill payment, and Internet banking. Valuenet is a provider of financial information and services using the electronic medium.

ETS Services Sdn Bhd (ETS), an MSC status company, provides the online electronic transaction delivery infrastructure that enables the public to transact on a range of services such as banking, share information and trading electronically. -- BERNAMA

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