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RM14b worth of investments in Kulim hi-tech park

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THE RM1.2 billion Kulim Hi-Tech Park in Kedah has to date amassed investments totalling RM14 billion, Kulim Technology Management Sdn Bhd group general manager Mazlee Md Ramli said yesterday.

He said the investments were mainly from multinationals, including RM7.5 million invested so far in its information technology centre by 15 local partners.

The park is still attracting interest from foreign high-technology companies as a possible investment location as it provides a conducive venue for the research and development of sophisticated products.

Some investors have set up their own establishments in the park and others have theirs run for them by Kulim Technology Management, the developer and manager of the park.

Mazlee said the park was currently the venue for about nine factories established by foreign companies.

Also, its RM13 million information technology centre has received support from local companies as marketing and development partners.

The Kulim Hi-Tech Park was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in March, 1996, and has so far attracted foreign investments from companies such as Intel, Gemplus and 3Com.

Mazlee was speaking to reporters in Subang Jaya, Selangor, after Kulim Technology Management signed a "smart partnership" agreement with Nilaiway Sales & Services Sdn Bhd to help the latter market its principal's multimedia products in the northern region.

Nilaiway is the appointed country distributor for Baraka Intracom USA, a global provider of video-conferencing and communications software.

In conjunction with the signing ceremony, Nilaiway also launched three multimedia products namely Cinemail (software allowing video clips to be sent as an attachment to e-mail messages), Fonewatch (video-conferencing over a GSM/PCN mobile network) and Vidcall32 (desktop video-conferencing for Windows).

Nilaiway managing director Frank Lai said the company expects to achieve sales of RM8 million in the next 12 months for the three multimedia solutions.

He said that under the agreement with Kulim Technology Management, Nilaiway would invest RM250,000 into the latter for it to establish a development and marketing site in Kulim Hi-Tech Park for the three products.

Kulim Technology Management expects to return Nilaiway's investment from the sale of the products within two years.

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