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KULIM HI-TECH  
KULIM HI-TECH PARK ATTRACTS RM15 BLN INVESTMENTS

KUALA LUMPUR, June 2 (Bernama) -- The Kulim Hi-Tech Park (KHTP) in Kedah has attracted about RM15 billion worth of investments from multinational companies and it will continue to receive strong support, Kulim Technology Park Corporation Sdn Bhd (KTPC), managing director Ahmad Shukri Tajuddin said today.

The response to this project is good and KTPC, the developer and manager of the high technology park, is assessing several applications for further investments in the park which could be worth between RM2 billion and RM3 billion, he said.

Many of the applications were from US-based companies, Ahmad Shukri told reporters after the signing ceremony for the provision of networking solution for the park.

He attributed the interest on the park to its infrastructure and technology facilities and the current lower value of the ringgit.

Twenty-seven companies have so far committed their investments in the first and second phases of KHTP, Ahmad Shukri said. He dismissed any possibility of investment deferment from investors.

"Some of the investors have already started their operations," he said, citing example of Japan's commitment with two of their five companies already in operation.

Asked how long it takes to assess investment application, he said the earliest took about three to four months. Some may take two to three years.

The RM1.2 billion Kulim Hi-Tech Park regarded as "The Science City Of The Future" was the idea mooted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

At the signing ceremony, 3Com Asia Ltd (Malaysia) and Stacks Technology Sdn Bhd signed a teaming agreement with Kulim Technology Management Sdn Bhd (KTM), 80 percent owned by KTPC, to provide networking solutions for the park.

3Com, a global networking leader will provide the hardware, technical knowledge and training for KTM.

Stacks, the authorised network system integrator for 3Com, will function as network integrator in the installation of networking cabling system, Local Area Network (LAN) and Wide Area Network (WAN). It is also to provide network related to train KTM's personnel and tenants at the park.

The networking development project will be implemented in two phases and the first phase development cost RM1.5 million, said Mazlee Md Ramli, KTM's group general manager.

The first phase which includes the setting up of hardware and software infrastructure, will be in operation by next month, he said.

The second phase will cover the implementation of electronic-community service applications that primarily offer facilities, training and consultation services to the park tenants and customers, Mazlee said. --

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