

29/05/1998

Lester develops encryption technology for Internet users

LESTER Technology Group Sdn Bhd has developed a Made-in-Malaysia encryption technology solution - a security solution for Internet, intranet and extranet users - which will give the company's overseas competitors a run for their money, chief group executive Jerry Wu said yesterday.

He said there were only 50 players involved in designing encryption technology solutions worldwide.

"Of the total, at least 70 per cent are from the US. The encryption technology solution allowed to be exported from the United States are 40 bits or less while Lester Technology's encryption technology solutions are 2,048 bits," he added.

Encryption protects Internet, intranet and extranet-based communication from being modified by hackers.

Lester Technology's solution can be used on Microsoft's and Netscape's Internet-access softwares.

Chairman Mirzan Mahathir said Lester Technology's solution, LTG CA Suite, was the only Malaysian-made product which was available in the market.

At present, the company will be concentrating on marketing the security solution to soon-to-be certification authorities in the country.

Certification authorities are organisations which issue digital certificates. A digital certificate is an encrypted data file that includes personal data of the digital identification holder.

The digital certificates are authenticated, issued and managed by a third party known as the certification authority. Digital authentication uses cryptographic technology.

In Malaysia, there are no certification authorities yet. However, plans are in the pipeline to establish certification authorities in the country soon.

Mirzan was speaking after Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Minister Datuk Leo Moggie officially opened Lester Technology Group's global headquarters in Sungai Besi, Selangor.

Mirzan said Lester Technology had begun a pilot programme with a few of the potential certification authorities in the country but declined to elaborate.

"The certification authority, as the trusted third party, must provide a strong encryption technology solution to ensure minimum security risks," senior vice-president Michael Hui Hoong said.

Incorporated on Nov 10, 1997, Lester Technology is the only Malaysian company involved in providing strong encryption technology solutions for digital data and electronic information.

(END)