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NOKIA APPLIES FOR MSC STATUS

KUALA LUMPUR, March 17 (Bernama) -- Nokia today applied for MSC (Multimedia Super Corridor) status to allow it to work on future generation handphone sets that provide Internet access, said its group president and chief executive officer Jorma Ollila.

He said Nokia, which is a member of the MSC's International Advisory Panel, will work on the project which combines mobile phone capability with moving video and high-speed Internet access.

"We look forward to establishing our operation in Malaysia as a centre for software service package in the area," he told reporters after meeting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"We consider this as an important extension to the research and development that we have done in Europe, the United States and other parts of Asia for a number of years," he added.

Ollila said Nokia is strongly committed to the Malaysian market, after having made investments in research and development (R&D), technical support, customer service and manufacturing facilities in a joint venture with the Sapura Group.

Declining to disclose Nokia's investment figures in Malaysia, Ollila said: "We are not looking at investment figures but we have made major investments in technological competencies in Malaysia and will be increasing them steadily in the years to come, mainly in R&D."

On his meeting with Mahathir, he said he had a "good discussion" on the impact of the regional financial turmoil and Malaysia's determination to overcome the problem. -- BERNAMA

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