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Signed - deal to build multimedia varsity

TELEKOM Malaysia Bhd yesterday signed an agreement with a consortium of four companies, known as MEPS joint venture, for the planning, design and construction of its Multimedia University.

The consortium comprises MKN Sdn Bhd, which holds a 40 per cent stake, Projass Engineering Bhd (30 per cent), and Eastbourne Corporation Bhd and Shorefield Holdings Sdn Bhd (15 per cent each).

Telekom Malaysia chief executive Datuk Mohamed Said Mohamed Ali said it hoped to attract students from abroad to study at the Multimedia University.

"This in turn would help the Government make our country a centre of excellence for education in the region," he said at a signing ceremony between Telekom Malaysia and the consortium in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

It was witnessed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Also present were Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Minister Datuk Leo Moggie and Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Abdul Razak.

"The first semester is expected to commence in October," said Mohamed Said.

Multimedia University, to be sited on a 80ha area within Cyberjaya in Sepang, Selangor, will be the first university in the country to emphasise all aspects of multimedia.

The RM600-million project will be carried out in two phases - the first phase to be completed in August, and the second by February next year.

Apart from building the campus, the consortium will also be responsible for providing various other infrastructure.

To be managed by Universiti Telekom Sdn Bhd, it will initially accommodate about 5,000 to 10,000 students and in five years it is expected to accommodate about 20,000 students.

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