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Alcatel to make nation hub for S-E Asia

ALCATEL CIT, France's telecommunications giant, plans to set up an engineering and technical services centre in the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) as part of plans to make Malaysia its South-East Asian hub. Its chairman and chief executive officer Manuel Gordillo said Alcatel, which has a major telecommunications equipment manufacturing facility in Penang, also intends to form a new corporation in the country to oversee the needs of its South-East Asian operations.

"We plan to set up the company by next month," he told reporters after meeting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the sidelines of the MSC International Advisory Panel meeting in Cyberjaya yesterday.

The engineering centre, to be staffed by about 40 engineers, will be set up in the next four to five months but there is no intention to move its Penang operations to the MSC, Gordillo said.

He declined to reveal the amount of investment involved, but said the company will make a detailed announcement soon.

"Since we are already investing a lot in Malaysia, we need not start from scratch in terms of investment for the centre.

"It (the amount of investment) will depend very much on the location for our new centre. After this summer, we will announce the decision," he said.

On his meeting with the Prime Minister, Gordillo said he was impressed with the progress achieved by the MSC.

"He (Dr Mahathir) has managed to create a winning team. I am absolutely convinced that he is going to bring a lot of good to the country.

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