

09 SEP 1999

Incubators

MORE TECHNOLOGY INCUBATION CENTRES COMING UP, SAYS MTDC

BANGI, Sept 9 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Technology Development Corporation (MTDC), which has already set up three technology incubation centres in local public universities, plans to erect three more to encourage high-technology companies to flourish.

One of the three already built, the UKM-MTDC technology incubation centre, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia here today.

Speaking at the function, MTDC Director Haji Abdul Muis Hassan said the other two are at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) in Serdang near here and Universiti Malaya in Kuala Lumpur.

The three more being planned are at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and Universiti Teknologi MARA.

He said these existing and proposed centres would help develop local high-tech companies at relatively lower costs as well bring returns to companies utilising facilities and expertise available at local universities.

Abdul Muis said the incubation centre at UPM catered for information technology (IT) and multi-media companies, and the one at UM for companies involved in advanced electronics and core-science technology.

The one at UKM, catered for biotechnology and chemical engineering companies.

The MTDC was also collaborating with the Penang Development Corporation to develop a technology incubation centre in Bandar Bayan Baru, he said.

Also speaking at the function, UKM Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Anuar Ali said the UKM-MTDC smart technology centre inaugurated today would further intensify technology transfer from the university to companies.

He said while UKM had been marketing consultancy products since the early 80s, the transfer of research findings to the private sector was still at a very level.

He said although UKM's earnings from technology-transfer activities have not been lucrative, the quantum was gradually increasing year by year.

"We believe the centre will help UKM academic staff enhance their capacity and efficiency in transferring research findings and technologies to industries," he said.

Officially known as the UKM-MTDC smart technology centre, which sits on a 2.4 ha within the UKM complex, it provides technology-incubation space and infrastructure for biotechnology and other cluster technologies.

At the function, Dr Mahathir witnessed the signing of eight contracts and memorandums of understanding between UKM and companies for consultancy and research undertakings.

-- BERNAMA

NZ ryn