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MSC-Confidence

MSC A MAGNET FOR LOCAL, FOREIGN IT COMPANIES

CYBERJAYA, July 8 (Bernama) -- The confidence of key information technology industry players in Malaysia's ambitious Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) is strongly reflected in the number of companies which have gained MSC status accreditation.

To date, some 225 companies have obtained the coveted status from 285 which have applied and already, some 21 companies, including eight MSC-status firms, are located here.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the prime mover of the MSC, was clearly delighted by the figure which has exceeded the original target of 50 by 2003.

"We are clearly ahead of schedule," he said when opening Malaysia's premier intelligent city, Cyberjaya, the nucleus of the MSC project today.

Most importantly, there are 32 world-class web shapers who have obtained MSC status, many of them as regional initiatives.

Among the big names which have shown keen interest in the MSC are Japan's Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp (NTT), Motorola Inc and Microsoft of the United States.

Malaysia has created the MSC to help international companies test the limits of information technology and prepare themselves for the future.

The MSC will also accelerate Malaysia's entry into the information age, and through it, help actualise Vision 2020 to turn the country into a developed nation by year 2020.

The MSC is a length of greenfield corridor, 15km wide and 50km long, which starts from the Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC), itself an intelligent precinct housing the world's tallest buildings, to down south to the site of the region's largest international airport, the KLIA.

Two of the world's first smart cities are being developed in the corridor -- Putrajaya, the new seat of the Federal Government and Cyberjaya.

Cyberjaya will house, among others, multimedia industries, research and development centres, a multimedia university and operational headquarters for multinational companies.

Contrary to popular belief, Cyberjaya is not an exclusive club but is actually open to everyone with residential and commercial land units available for sale to the public.

Only the so-called "enterprise" land is restricted to multimedia and information technology companies.

Cyberjaya will be a full-fledged township development with a targeted population of 240,000.

-- BERNAMA

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