

17/06/2000

Dr Mahathir happy with MSC's progress

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he is satisfied with the progress of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC), noting that it has attracted 34 multinational and world-class companies to date.

He expressed confidence the MSC will be able to reach its target of having 50 world-class companies and 500 small ones within its corridor by the year 2003.

"We already have 34 world-class companies and 334 small companies. So we are doing very well. We are, in a way, ahead of schedule," he told a news conference after launching Motorola Inc's Software Centre in Cyberjaya yesterday.

He said many of the companies are already operating within the MSC although not all of them are located in Cyberjaya.

"This is because we have yet to put up all the necessary infrastructure (in Cyberjaya). A lot of them are now operating within the corridor extending from the KLCC Twin Towers to KLIA (KL International Airport)," he said.

Dr Mahathir said many people have expressed their interest to become members of the MSC's International Advisory Panel (IAP).

"We welcome that because they present different ideas and sectors. Their presence will be useful in guiding us to what else that we need to do in order to develop the corridor," he added.

Dr Mahathir also said Motorola's investment of US\$10 million (US\$1 = RM3.80) to put up the software centre in Cyberjaya shows the company's commitment to Malaysia.

"This investment by Motorola is a strong belief by the company that the MSC can prosper and excel," he said.

Motorola's software centre is located in Tropicana. It is expected to move its operations to Cyberjaya in 2002.

Meanwhile, Multimedia Development Corp executive chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah, who was also present at the press conference, announced that Netlinx, a German e-commerce firm, plans to move its Asia-Pacific headquarters to Cyberjaya in February next year.

The company's headquarters is currently located at the KLCC Twin Towers. Netlinx has two other offices, in Germany and Canada. It has invested RM80 million in Malaysia.

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