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Konsortium expects 700 firms to opt for Smile

KONSORTIUM Logistik Bhd (Konsortium) is targeting 700 small- and medium-sized industries (SMIs) involved in logistics to participate in its newly-launched SMI Logistic Enterprise (Smile) Scheme.

Its executive chairman and president Mirzan Mahathir said initially, the consortium will pump in some RM20 million into the scheme that will be channelled through its strategic tie-up with Multi-Purpose Bank Bhd.

"For a start, Konsortium expects all the 120 logistic companies which have already allied themselves with the consortium to join the scheme," he said to reporters after the signing ceremony and the launch of the scheme yesterday.

In the strategic tie-up with Multi-Purpose Bank, Konsortium not only supports the growth of SMIs by providing significant sophisticated logistic capabilities but also makes available special financing facilities that in total reduces the cost of inventory for them.

MPB executive director Ng Siek Chuan said the scheme allows Konsortium's customers to take advantage of the attractive interest rates available under the SMI financing programme to improve their inventory turnover. The range of financing is from RM200,000 to RM1.5 million per SMI customer.

Under the scheme, eligible SMI companies need not pay higher than 5 per cent on interest rate. He said the rate is lower than the SMI fund provided by the bank with a 6 per cent interest rate.

At the same ceremony, Konsortium also signed a sale and purchase agreement with Volvo Malaysia Sdn Bhd to buy 75 units of Volvo's new FM10 and 15 units of its FL7 prime movers worth a total of RM22 million. Volvo East Asia Pte Ltd, Singapore was also there to witness the MOU.

Konsortium has been in the business of inventory management since 1984. Over the years, it has built up its expertise in different facets of the logistics field. Its services range from container and conventional haulage, logistics coordination, warehousing and distribution, ports and customs clearance and heavy lift operations.

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