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Motorola allots RM38m for local software centre

Trina Thomas Raj

MOTOROLA Inc, which has invested more than US\$1.1 billion (RM4.18 billion) in the country, has allocated US\$10 million for its Malaysian software centre, its global software division senior vice president and general manager Terry Heng said.

He expects the allocation to be utilised within the next five years.

"A software centre's asset is its staff. As such, the huge allocation will be used to employ skilled workers," he explained.

The Motorola software centre in Malaysia opened its doors for business in March last year. Now at the Kuala Lumpur City Centre, it will relocate to Cyberjaya in 2002.

It started with a workforce of five employees. Now, the centre has 80 software engineers, all Malaysians, Heng told reporters after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad inaugurated the centre at a ceremony at Cyberlodge in Cyberjaya yesterday.

The company aims to increase its headcount to 100 by year-end and to 250 by 2003.

Motorola has 16 software centres worldwide, 10 in Asia.

Centre managing director S. Surya said the centre is concentrating on developing mobile phone applications such as intelligent network and telecommunications management network; platforms and contents for the global market.

"Malaysia's information technology sector has come a long way. Just a few years back, we were importing software and skilled IT workers. Today, we are exporting software developed in the country by Malaysians," he said.

The centre recently developed browser software for Japan.

"We view the successful deployment of the software to Japan as a great achievement because it was envisioned and developed by Malaysians," he added.

"Now that we have acquired the brainpower mass, our next immediate task is to commission cutting-edge hardware and application systems."

Motorola, which registered sales of US\$33.1 billion (RM125.78 billion) in 1999, provides integrated communications solutions and embedded electronic solutions for, among others automotive, imaging, manufacturing and industrial markets.

Motorola, which has been in Malaysia for 27 years, has established itself as a leading global manufacturer of high technology communications, information technology and electronic components.

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