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UEM in joint bid to build RM1bn centre

CONSTRUCTION group United Engineers (M) Bhd (UEM) has announced that it is putting in a joint bid to build the RM1 billion National Exhibition Centre.

The company said it has entered into a joint venture with Syarikat Pembinaan Usaha Bersatu Sdn Bhd (SPUB) to tender for the proposed centre located near the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah airport in Subang.

UEM had earlier on June 9 formed a joint venture with SPUB known as the "SPUB-UEM Joint Venture".

If awarded the contract for the project, which will be developed and managed by Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAB), the distribution of works and profits between UEM and SPUB will be on the basis of 49 per cent and 51 per cent respectively.

The Government had previously given MAB the go-ahead to develop a piece of land near the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah International Airport in Subang as part of its National Exhibition and Convention Centre Project (NECC).

The former Terminal One building of the airport will be demolished to make way for the mega-project, estimated to cost about RM1 billion.

The NECC is due to be completed in the third quarter of 2002.

It will be equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and will cover 100,000 sq metres of exhibition space. It is expected to cater for conventions of up to 20,000 delegates.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, at the soft launch of the NECC project on May 24 this year, had said that it would also be equipped with direct access to a Boeing 747 runway of its own - which is something not available in many countries.

The new convention centre will attract more tourists into the country, he added.

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