

Govt allocates RM5mil to implement RosettaNet

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Manufacturing companies in

THE government has allocated RM5mil as a grant for local electrical and electronics (E&E) companies to implement RosettaNet, an Internet-based common messaging standard for global supply chain management.

International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz said the grant would be available between January and December next year, and would be disbursed through the ministry and the Small Medium Industries Development Corp (Smidec).

The aim of the grant was to prepare Malaysian companies for early adoption and implementation of global supply chain management, she told reporters at a media session in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Funding would cover 50% of approved costs, subject to a maximum of RM100,000 per company, whichever is lower.

E&E sector that are 60% held by Malaysians, and those supplying products to large companies which have implemented RosettaNet will be eligible for the grant.

The RosettaNet initiative, announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in the 2002 Budget, enables companies in the supply chain to communicate and conduct business electronically through common codes for sourcing of parts and components. It is currently being developed for the E&E sector.

Rafidah said that in view of the increasing importance of Malaysia as a supply hub for electrical and electronic components, a decision has been taken by the government in consultation with the industry to adopt the RosettaNet standard. She said by adopting the RosettaNet standard,

local companies would be able to conduct business through electronic means with their partners, suppliers and buyers; and enjoy the benefits of reduced inventory costs, time to market and lower transaction costs.

RosettaNet Malaysia Sdn Bhd will be incorporated by end of the year, with the affiliation agreement with the California-based RosettaNet Global scheduled for January next year, which would mark the official launch of RosettaNet Malaysia, which would undertake the functions of membership management, conducting training and promotion of RosettaNet.

The office of RosettaNet Malaysia will be located at the Penang Skills Development Centre.

In Asia, Malaysia would be the fifth economy after Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Singapore to adopt the RosettaNet standard.