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20 SMEs to participate in RosettaNet

WENTY small and medium-scale companies will participate in the pilot phase of the Internet-based common messaging standard for global supply chain management RosettaNet by mid January when the RosettaNet Malaysia office opens on Malaysia's Silicon Island, Penang.

The office at the Penang Skills Development Centre in Bayan Lepas would be manned by a managing director and six local engineers.

"The engineers, who are being seconded from local and multinational companies, along with those from technology solutions providers will leave for the US in February for a six month training stint," a computer industry source said in Penang.

The source said SMEs from the electrical and electronics (E&E) sector would be "mentored" in the RosettaNet process by technology giants Intel, Motorola, Microsoft and other members of the California-based RosettaGlobal.

It is learnt that the first phase of RosettaNet will focus on companies in Penang and the Northern region before going nationwide.

RosettaNet Malaysia was targetting 100 local members by the end of next year.

RosettaNet, an Internet-based common messaging standard for global supply chain management, is internationally managed by the California-based RosettaGlobal.

RosettaGlobal's over 400 members from the world's leading E&E sector also include Dell and Cisco.

A technical core team for RosettaNet Malaysia was formed in October.

The team - comprising members from the Penang Development Corporation, Economic Planning Unit, Small and Medium Industries Development Corporation, Mimos, PSDC, Intel, Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers, Eng Teknologi Holdings and BCM Corporation Sdn Bhd - is to render assistance, including training and implementation of RosettaNet to local companies.

International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz said on Monday that Malaysian E&E companies were eligible for a grant of up to RM100,000 each to embark on RosettaNet.

The RosettaNet initiative was first announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad when he tabled the 2002 Budget in October.

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