

23 FEB 2001

KTPC-OFFSHORE

KTPC AIMS FOR INTERNATIONAL CLIENTS

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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 23 (Bernama) - Kulim Technology Park Corporation (KTPC), is planning to offer its expertise and services in the development of high technology parks to the Asia Pacific countries in the near future.

KTPC managing director Ahmad Shukri Tajuddin said KTPC would explore opportunities for high technology park development in the Philippines, Indonesia, China and India.

"This would ensure the growth of the company. Once the whole area (Kulim High Technology Park) is developed, we still have to go on and therefore we have to expand our market," he said.

KTPC is also eyeing for a listing on the Main Board of the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange (KLSE), Shukri told reporters who were on a one-day visit to the Kulim High Technology Park (KHTP) in Kedah yesterday.

He said KTPC was working on the necessary procedures for a listing on the KLSE and was waiting for the right time to go into the market.

"The current market is not very good," he added.

The proceeds from the initial public offering (IPO) would be used to acquire more land, he said.

Shukri said the company's business was not affected by the current economic slowdown in the United States as it has forecast an increase in foreign direct investment (FDI) in KHTP.

He said investment in KHTP could see a double growth to RM400 million this year if ongoing negotiations with several US and Japanese firms proved fruitful.

"We have also received 14 new enquiries from Korean and local companies. The interest (for investment) is still there even though there are talks about slowdown in the US economy and I am very confident we will be able to attract more," he said.

Ahmad Shukri said KHTP - dubbed the "Science City of the Future" - has designated a 400-hectare site for small and medium industries (SMIs) so that these companies can support the operations of the park's multi-national tenants. The site is expected to be ready by end of the year.

KHTP, the first high-tech industrial park in the country was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in March 1996.

Its development was undertaken by KTPC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Kedah State Development Corporation.

The innovative concept of the park has been divided into three main functions - Industrial, R & D facilities and a new township complete with full amenities, shopping centre, medical educational institutions and recreational facilities -- covering the park's 1,448 hectares.

Apart from that, KHTP has also allocated an area within the Urban Industrial Zone Phase I, for the development of an Information Technology Centre and Techno Centre to provide support to the hi-tech industries and also local entrepreneurs.

To date, a total of 16 manufacturing plants have started operations in the park and among the major multi-national companies which have set up base at KHTP are Intel, Fuji Electric, Entegris, AIC Semiconductor, Silterra and Celestica.

Ahmad Shukri said: "We started everything in 1994 and since our incorporation, our performance has been very positive and our revenue has been always on the upper trend. With the result, we are definitely

satisfying our share-holders and the future is promising".

He said KTPC's profit rate has been growing by 20 percent since 1994.

"We are promoting companies involved in R & D (Design, research and redevelopment)," he said, stressing that the park was not in competition with the Technology Park Malaysia in Bukit Jalil or the Multi-media Super Corridor but instead played a complementary role to these initiatives.

Asked whether there was any conflict between the Multimedia Super Corridor and KTPC, he said, "We are not in conflict with MSC, both the projects are government projects aiming to enhance the competitiveness of Malaysia globally."

They have set different goals and targets, therefore there is no competition between them, Shukri said.

"One day we wish to have a link with MSC, and that I think, will benefit Malaysia as a whole," he added. -- BERNAMA

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