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CM: SMIs may need more funds for RosettaNet

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DEMAND from local small and medium-sized industries to take their businesses online via RosettaNet may exceed the RM5 million allocated by the Federal Government to assist them, Penang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said.

"We are prepared to request for more funding from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad by the third quarter of the year, if needed," he told reporters after launching a RosettaNet Malaysia seminar in Penang on Tuesday.

Also present were RosettaNet chief executive officer Jennifer Hamilton, its vice-president (standards management) Paul Tearnen, Mimos Berhad president and chief executive officer Tengku Datuk Azzman Shariffadeen and RosettaNet Malaysia executive director S.Y. Foong.

The RM5 million allocation is to assist at least 48 companies receive RosettaNet grants totalling RM100,000 each.

RosettaNet is the global messaging standards system for the high technology sector.

Koh, who co-chairs the Technology, Industry and Government for e-Revolution (TIGeR) steering committee with Tengku Azzman, said RosettaNet had been accepted as the e-business standard for Malaysia's high technology sector last year.

He said preparations were being made for the second phase of TIGeR by Mimos and the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers and that the focus of this effort may be on the automobile industry.

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