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MDC, SGI to deliver world-class technology for MSC

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THE cooperation between Multimedia Development Corp (MDC) and Silicon Graphics Inc (SGI) in the development of Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) moved a step further with the setting up of a Creative Application Development Centre (CADC).

MDC has signed a US\$5.6 million (US\$1 = RM3.80) contract with California-based SGI to deliver a world-class SGI reality centre facility, a visual area networking system and rendering services to the MSC. The project was completed this month.

Upon delivery, the reality centre facility and visual area network system will be a test bed for various visualisation applications and content development for scientific, industrial and entertainment purposes.

MDC intends to position the facility as the preferred site for scientists undertaking complex research and computational work, for students of such disciplines as virtual reality, animation and computational sciences, for institutions of higher learning, and as training sites for software developers.

The CADC, which will house the latest SGI technology, is a milestone in Malaysia's long-term planning vision to become a fully-developed nation and knowledge-rich society by 2020.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad officiated at the opening of SGI new facility last Friday. The CADC is one of the components of the MSC Flagship centre.

In a statement made available to Business Times, SGI chairman and chief executive officer Bob Bishop said the launching of the CADC is a testimony to the successful collaboration between the Government and the private sector.

"I believe that the Government and the private sector can work together to form a powerful alliance to drive economic development.

"As an enabler of technical excellence and creative innovation, we at SGI are especially proud of our contribution to Malaysia's MSC," he said.

SGI is the world leader in high-performance computing, visualisation and the management of complex data.

SGI products, services and solutions enable its technical and creative customers to gain strategic and competitive advantages in their core businesses.

Outside of the US, the CADC represents one of the largest concentrations of SGI technology servicing the core industry verticals - government and defence, sciences, manufacturing, energy and media.

The SGI reality centre facility, powered by a 16-processor SGI Onyx 3800 system, makes it the most advanced reality centre facility in South-East Asia.

SGI reality centre visualisation systems allow teams of technical and creative professionals to engage in interactive, real-time engineering and design review, data analysis, critical training, presentation, or command-and-control operations.

They immerse users in virtual environments to explore, understand and communicate on data in ways not possible in the physical world, thus increasing speed of decision-making, realising cost savings and enhancing productivity.

SGI has a long history of working with the Malaysian Government - Bishop has been a member of MSC's International Advisory Panel since its

initiation in 1997. The panel, a government and private sector think-tank, seeks to counsel the Malaysian Prime Minister on shaping the country's MSC.