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UPM SUBMITS PROPOSAL ON MALAYSIA-RUSSIA BIOTECHNOLOGY PROJECTS

SERDANG, May 21 (Bernama) -- Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) has submitted a proposal on projects to be carried out on collaboration with the Russian Shemyakin-Ovchinnikov Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry (SOIBC) to the Malaysian Science Academy (MSA).

Head of Advanced Material Laboratory, Institute of Advanced Technology UPM, Prof Dr Mansor Ahmad said the projects, cost about RM18 million, involved research in areas such as agrobiotechnology, medical biotechnology, biotechnology oriented basic research, natural product biotechnology and polymer technology.

"The proposal was submitted to the MSA task force recently and they would need some time to study it before presenting it to the cabinet," he told reporters after delivering his speech at the Malaysia-Russia scientific collaboration forum at UPM, here today.

The MSA task force was set following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Russian Academy of Science to start the Malaysia-Russia bilateral collaboration in the area of biotechnology in conjunction with the visit of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to the country last March.

Dr Mansor said the SOIBC was selected due to its strength in areas such as proteins, biological membranes, polymer for biology and biotechnology-based industries.

He said SOIBC had expressed its willingness to collaborate in researches if there was enough funding.

-- BERNAMA

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