

29 MAY 2003

IRIS-OIC

IRIS EXPECTS TO CAPITALISE ON OPPORTUNITIES DURING OIC SUMMIT

KUALA LUMPUR, May 29 (Bernama) -- Iris Corporation Bhd (ICB), a chip provider for Malaysia's e-passport and multi-purpose smart card, Mykad, expects to capitalise on business opportunities that could arise during the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit to be held here in October.

Iris chairman, Tan Sri Razali Ismail, today said that the company hoped to showcase its expertise to OIC members as well as secure contracts during the meet.

"We hope that we would be able to convince, showcase and demonstrate to few of the heads of government on what we can do, with some help from the government," he told reporters after a press conference on the Nigerian Electronic Passport project here today.

Iris recently secured the RM246 million contract to implement an electronic passport system project in Nigeria.

It signed a pact on May 24, 2003, with Nigerian-incorporated IRIS Smart Technologies Ltd (ISTL), to supply equipment, services and systems for the implementation of the electronic passport.

The project, which would involve the supply of 5.5 million passport substrates to Nigeria over a two-year period, is expected to further enhance and contribute to ICB's earnings for the current financial year and provide good prospects for the coming years, Razali said.

He said Nigeria became interested in adopting the technology when its President, Olusegun Obasanjo, visited Iris during the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit in February.

He said the contract was a result of hosting the NAM and that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had been instrumental in helping the company push forward its technology.

"We are grateful to the Prime Minister. He has been helping us push forward our technology and encouraging us to go beyond the shore of Malaysia," he said.

He said that there was also a possibility for other states in Africa to adopt their technology like Nigeria has. -- BERNAMA

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