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PC-TABLET

GERAK MOBILE LAUNCHES WORLD'S SMALLEST AND LIGHTEST TABLET PC

PUTRAJAYA, July 21 (Bernama) -- Gerak Mobile Technology Sdn Bhd (GMT) today launched the world's smallest and lightest tablet PC, "GMT-ACE".

It expects to sell between 15,000 to 25,000 units in the first year.

"We aspire to develop into a global entity within the next three years and we cannot just depend on one product," its chief executive officer Azhar Harun said.

As such, GMT, which has invested RM6 million to develop GMT-ACE including buying the rights, expects to introduce new products every six to nine months and would further indulge in research and development.

He said the initial product concept and prototype development of GMT-ACE originated with the support of Russian technologists who have relocated to Malaysia but further enhancements to incorporate technology advances were done locally.

The size of a filofax diary (measuring 8.8x0.97x6.8in), the GMT-ACE is convenient to carry and has full processing power of a Notebook PC.

GMT-ACE was officially launched here by Second Finance Minister Datuk Dr Jamaludin Jarjis, who was representing Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, and witnessed the signing of three agreements and one memorandum of understanding (MOU).

GMT, which is 40 percent-owned by Azam Ideal Sdn Bhd, 40 percent by MaxMobile Technology Pte Ltd and 20 percent by BSNC Corporation Bhd, had signed an MOU with TIME DotCom Sdn Bhd to facilitate Malaysia's e-learning pilot project.

It had signed a contractual agreement for smart school computing tablet pilot project with Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC), an agreement for global marketing arm with Azam Ideal and MaxMobile as well as a master distributors' agreement with Azam Ideal, BSNC, Pentas Permata Sdn Bhd, Malaysian Optronics Systems Sdn Bhd and Catch Phrase Systems Sdn Bhd.

GMT, which was accorded MSC status in March 2003, is currently developing an affordable wireless connectivity and has begun work on its second generation model.

Plans are also afoot to develop defence and automotive mobile ICT devices and systems, Azhar said.

Meanwhile, GMT has appointed Azam Ideal and MaxMobile as its exclusive global marketing arms for the distribution of its products.

Azam Ideal has appointed Master Distributors and they collectively have sold 4,000 units of GMT-ACE while MaxMobile has purchased 1,000 units besides signing MOUs with several European parties.

DPT, one of the largest logistics companies in Europe, wants to instal portable terminals for its trucks to facilitate a wireless tracking system and the company wanted to purchase 5,600 units for Germany alone, Azhar said.

In France, world-renowned systems integration organisation, Johnson Controls, intends to instal a logistic solution to one of the largest automotive manufacturers in Europe and expects to purchase between 2,000 and 4,000 Tablet PCs in the initial stage.

In the Netherlands, systems integrator, Advance Technology, expects 1,500 pieces for installation while Boeing Inc, which is interested to provide tablet PCs to all field engineers to enable them to communicate wirelessly, plans to instal 500 units in the initial stage though total requirement could reach 3,000 pieces.

Meanwhile, GMT was set up in July 2002 and its paid-up capital would increase to RM12 million in September 2003, Azhar said. -- BERNAMA
SHO TJK