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PC-Tablet

GERAK MOBILE LAUNCHES WORLD'S SMALLEST, LIGHTEST TABLET PC

PUTRAJAYA, July 21 (Bernama) -- Gerak Mobile Technology Sdn Bhd (GMT), which launched the world's smallest and lightest tablet PC "GMT-ACE" today, expects to be able 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," said Chief Executive Officer Azhar Harun.

As such, GMT which invested to the tune of 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 technologist who have been relocated to Malaysia but further enhancements to incorporate technology advances were done locally.

The size of a filofax diary (measuring 8.8" X 0.97" X 6.8"), the GMT-ACE is convenient to carry and with full processing power of a Notebook PC.

GMT-ACE was officially launched here by Second Finance Minister Datuk Dr Jamaludin Jarjis, who represented 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 the Malaysia e-learning pilot project.

It had signed a contractual agreement for smart school computing tablet pilot project with the Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC), an agreement for the 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 had appointed Azam Ideal and MaxMobile as their exclusive global marketing arms for the distribution of their products.

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

DPT, one of the largest logistics company in Europe, wants to install portable terminals for their 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 system integration organisation Johnson Controls intends to install a logistics solution to one of the largest automotive manufacturer in Europe and expects to purchase between 2,000-4,000 of the Tablet PC in the initial stage.

In the Netherlands, system integrator Advance Technology expects 1,500

pieces for installation while Boeing Inc, which is interested to provide the Tablet PC to all the field engineers to enable them to communicate wirelessly, planned to install 500 units in the initial stage but total requirement could reach 3,000 pieces.

Meanwhile, the GMT, which was set up in July last year, and its paid-up capital will increase to RM12 million in September this year, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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