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Tech sovereignty

By Prasanna Raman

MOST companies invest in technology for technology's sake. But after investing heavily, they often end up with nothing to show when the technology becomes outdated or obsolete after a few years.

Cyberjaya-based Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC)-status company InventQJaya Sdn Bhd works on the InventQbation model, which is not developing technology for technology's sake, but analysing problems and coming up with the solutions.

InventQJaya's chairman and chief executive officer Dr Sadeg Mustafa Faris says the model also believes in achieving technology sovereignty.

"Technology sovereignty means the ability to have access to the best tools, minds and technology and to stand on an equal footing with foreign nations and exchange ideas," Faris says. "Most developing nations are victims of technology colonialism. We do not want Malaysia to merely consume other countries' science and technology, that's why we are here."

InventQJaya was established in Malaysia through the request and vision of former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, when he visited Reveo Inc in the United States two years ago and requested that Reveo bring its unique InventQbation platform and technologies here.

The collaborative effort resulted in the setting up of InventQJaya, with the aim of using the InventQbation method to catapult Malaysia into developed nation status.

Now, after a year, InventQJaya already has much to show for. Its list of achievements include MeVictory - a Malaysian built metal fuel cell driven car, a metal air battery manufacturing pilot line, a stereo three-dimensional (3-D) theatre, MFree rural electrification project initiative, Aqua-Raya breakthrough water desalination technology and the OxyEauTech aquaculture initiative, to name a few.

Reveo, Faris says, has transferred eight technologies represented by 484 patents, issued, pending and acquired from third parties. It has six newly filed patent applications and five technologies transferred from Reveo as a goodwill gesture, including the use of nano-technology for self cleaning windows.

Among the technologies transferred from Reveo are Metal Air Standard Size Battery and Magnesium Air Fuel Cell Technology, Stereoscopic 3-D Components, Device and Content Technologies, Switchable window glazing technology, CLC Pigment Technology, CLC Optical Storage Technology, Oxygen Generation Technology, Glare Blocking Technology and Desalination Technology. The company currently has 116 employees at its laboratory facility here and 90 per cent of them are involved in research and development (R&D) activities.

InventQJaya has also recruited people from within the country and wants to recruit more to work in the areas of photonics, mechanical engineering and transportation technology.

The key objective of the laboratory, Faris adds, is to provide the environment which will entice them to stay on.

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