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## Rising uptake of wireless technology

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INTERACTIVE Channels Sdn Bhd (InterChannel) is optimistic that its business will pick up in the second half of this year.

The company, a provider of wireless and Internet solutions, is targeting RM5 million in turnover this year with focus on the education and public sectors, said its vice president of business development and operation Tengku Azman Tengku Zainal Abidin.

The company, he added, also expects to benefit from a greater uptake of the wireless technology in the local market.

"The prices of wireless solutions are increasingly getting more competitive and this factor has driven more adoption of the technology here. Wireless technology will continue to complement, not replace land-based connections, and it clearly has growth potential," he said in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday.

InterChannel will also be offering a new wireless solution from the United States to be made available next month.

The company is providing wireless broadband connectivity to delegates and visitors of the Umno General Assembly taking place at the Putra World Trade Centre. With hotspots covering such areas as main halls and the media centre at the PWTC, users can connect to the Internet wirelessly throughout the event, Tengku Azman said. The service runs on the 802.11b standard with broadband connection of up to 10 megabits per second.

Time is sponsoring the leased line for the wireless broadband connection worth about RM200,000, while relevant applications and infrastructure from InterChannel is worth another RM150,000. Co-sponsors of the facility also include Benq and 3Com. Tengku Azman said InterChannel and its partners are also enabling a live Web conferencing between Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed and Malaysian students abroad, scheduled today.

Proceedings of the Assembly can also be viewed via <http://www.umno-online.com>. Visitors and delegates can also view the Umno Online and Kelab Umno.com sites from 20 personal computers at the PWTC.