

Lim: Only the best for WiMax

KUALA LUMPUR: No company can "muscle" its way to being a service provider of 2.3GHz broadband or WiMax, said Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik.

The Energy, Water and Communications Minister said he was still looking into how and who was best to roll out the new generation network (NGN).

"For those with 3G, use that first. Let me figure out what can be done with the 2.3GHz.

"It cannot go to any simple fellow who simply asks for it and muscles in. No way!" he said yesterday after launching Maxis' first residential HSPDA broadband service.

"Please don't ask me when because I don't know. It has to be rolled out but I have to find the right people," he added.

Dr Lim said 2.3 or WiMax (Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access) infrastructure and resource were much needed.

But, he added, that before that could happen, a lot of work needed to be done, like opening up old cables and laying new ones.

He added that a consortium, possibly called the National Infocom Infrastructure Management Company (Niimco), might be formed to roll out the infrastructure.

Niimco might comprise of the

Government, Telekom Malaysia and other industry players and may be modelled after the British example where service providers formed a consortium to build infrastructure without killing one another.

About a month ago, Dr Lim had postponed the WiMax tender to iron out problems such as the interoperability between systems provided by different service providers.

He had said there should be a national roll out of WiMax and that all systems should be interoperable.

Dr Lim said broadband with higher speed at lower cost would change the way Malaysians live, work and play.

"I suppose some of you may not be able to see it. I can't fault you if you can't see it because it is not there yet," he said in his speech.

He said Broadband Malaysia still looked like wishful thinking because he had not finished with it.

He added that broadband and next generation technologies featured prominently in the country's MyICMC 886, the blueprint of the ICT industry here.

"We have targeted that 75% of households will be connected with broadband by 2010. That's a tall order but it's something we have to reach for," he said.