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Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak handing over a Malaysian Investment Development Authority approval letter to Finisar executive chairman and chief executive officer Jerry Rawls in San Jose on Wednesday. With them is Malaysian ambassador to the US Datuk Dr Awang Adek Hussin (left). Bernama pic

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## US tech firm invests RM400m more in Perak operations

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Finisar Corporation, a leading United States technology company, is upbeat on its Malaysian prospects and will invest a further RM400 million to expand operations in Perak.

Finisar, which has invested US\$160 million (RM672 million) in Perak so far, may not be a household name but the company's contribution to Perak's economy is enormous.

It is the biggest employer among multinational firms operating in Perak, with 7,000 workers. And, it contributes 25 per cent of Perak's manufacturing gross domestic product (GDP) and five per cent of Perak's GDP.

Jerry Rawls, executive chairman and chief executive officer of the Sunnyvale, California-based firm, said half of its global workforce of 14,000 are in its Chemor facility in Perak. But why Malaysia?

"Malaysia is good for the company. We have good and loyal workers,

stable employment, easy trade, good infrastructure, good communication infrastructure and the weather is always good.

"(There are) no shutdowns. No volcanoes. No earthquakes. Unlike our plant in Eastern Europe, which we have to shut down sometimes due to icing snow," he said here.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, who is here as part of his working trip to California, met Rawls on the sidelines of a US-Malaysia business luncheon on Wednesday to hand over a Malaysian Investment Development Authority approval letter for Finisar's additional investments.

"This is the biggest company in Perak in terms of workers.

"It will add a further 250 workers with the additional investments," Najib said.

"This will bring total Finisar investments in Malaysia to RM1 billion and will generate returns on investments of RM38.5 billion in 10 years."

Finisar is the world's largest supplier of optical communication products.

It is a global technology leader for fibre-optic subsystems and components that enable high-speed voice, video and data communications for telecommunications, networking, storage, wireless and cable television applications.

For years, Finisar has provided critical optics technologies to system manufacturers to meet increasing demand for network bandwidth.

Rawls said Finisar initially had only 40 workers when it started operations in Chemor in 2001.

"We expect to hire more people. We expect to expand our 100,000 sq ft plant in Chemor. We are the world's largest fibre-optic transmitter and receiver producer," Rawls said.

Rawls took over as Finisar chairman in 2008 and was appointed chief executive officer last year.