

Headline	MIMOS TIES UP WITH TAIWAN, SEOUL PARTNERS		
Date	19. Apr 2007	Language	ENGLISH
Media Title	The Star	Page No	19,20
Section	Star In-Tech	Article Size	508 cm2
Circulation	293375	Frequency	Daily
Readership	1026812	Color	Full Color



MIMOS TIES UP WITH TAIWAN, SEOUL PARTNERS

By H. AMIR KHALID

KUALA LUMPUR: ICT applied research and development organisation Mimos Bhd has agreed to establish research laboratories with organisations from Taiwan and South Korea.

It will engage in joint research projects with the Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI) of Taiwan, and the Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute (ETRI) of South Korea.

Under the memoranda of understanding signed with the respective organisations last week, the laboratories will be located at the Mimos complex at Technology Park Malaysia, and

will be operational by the third quarter.

“The Mimos-ETRI laboratory will focus on applied research and development in micro-energy systems,” said Mimos president and chief executive Abdul Wahab Abdullah.

The Mimos-ITRI laboratory, he said, will focus on applied research in microelectronics, and on developing advanced semiconductor materials to be used in broadband devices in the area of optoelectronics.

Optoelectronics is the study, design and application of electronic devices that interact with visible

light and other forms of electromagnetic radiation, like X-rays, ultraviolet and infrared light.

Such devices are used in fibre-optic communications, digital cameras, as well as CD and DVD

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» **This in line with our vision of building Mimos into a premier applied research centre in frontier technologies ...**«



**ABDUL WAHAB ABDULLAH,
MIMOS CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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JOINT VENTURE: Mimos will engage in joint research projects with ITRI of Taiwan and ETRI of South Korea.

Ideal partnership

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players, among other things.

Mimos will also collaborate with ITRI in secondary and high-performance computing for nationwide research.

ETRI and ITRI are both non-profit, government-funded research and development organisations.

ETRI, established in 1976, is a leading research institute in electronics and telecommunications, while ITRI has provided technical support for Taiwan's industrial development since its establishment in 1973.

1973.
Mimos and its partners have yet to decide how many researchers will be working at the laboratories.

"But we are looking at a Malaysian to foreign researcher ratio of 70:30 for both laboratories," Abdul Wahab said.

Mimos' technology strategy and planning division will set the research priorities of the laboratories, which will be jointly led by Mimos and its respective partners.

Micro-energy systems and microelectronics were chosen as areas of joint research because they are two of the eight areas that Mimos focuses on.

Abdul Wahab said that Mimos could leverage on ETRI's expertise and experience in this area

THIS AREA.

Meanwhile, Taiwan is one of the most advanced countries in the semiconductor industry, and its foundries are the best in the world.

This makes it an ideal partner for microelectronics research and development, said Abdul Wahab.

"This is in line with our vision of building Mimos into a premier applied research centre in frontier technologies, with a mission to develop new information and communications technologies into globally competitive indigenous industries.

"We must collaborate with the best-in-class organisations in the technology areas, to build our own indigenous capacity and capability," he said.

Abdul Wahab declined to give figures for the cost of setting up the laboratories, or the research budgets that would be allocated to them.

"All parties are still working out the details, and we are not privileged to disclose the information," he said.

As for the disposition of intellectual properties arising from research at the new laboratories, arrangements for apportioning IP (intellectual property) rights to discoveries and inventions will be decided on a case-by-case basis, Abdul Wahab said.

Meanwhile, patents created at the laboratories which are disclosed and filed through Mimos, will be eligible for Mimos' patent reward scheme. The scheme rewards researchers according to profits generated by the patent.

The technology arising from the joint labs will be assigned for commercialisation to Malaysia-based joint-venture companies set up by Malaysian and South Korean entities, and by Malaysian and Taiwanese entities respectively, Abdul Wahab said.

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