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Mimos to launch Internet mobile devices

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MALAYSIA'S efforts to narrow the digital divide will see two Internet mobile devices being unveiled soon.

The "Jen-ii" (Jendela Informasi Internet) will be priced from RM500 and below, while the "Idola" cyber-tablet is set to be priced from RM1,000 and below, its technology developer Mimos Bhd said.

Jen-ii will run on Texas Instruments chips, while Mimos is collaborating with the world's biggest chipmaker Intel Corp on Idola, which will feature the chipmaker's "Atom" microprocessor.

The microchip for Idola is believed to be developed by Intel's research facilities in China.

"We are looking at bundling Jen-ii's launch in tandem with the national broadband rollout by the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission," Mimos chief executive officer Datuk Abdul Wahab Abdullah told Business Times.

He said regular features such as bluetooth device, USB connection and other standard devices will be offered with both products.

Abdul Wahab said Telekom Malaysia Bhd (TM) is likely to market the Jen-ii although other Internet service providers can also



LOW-COST COMPUTING: Mimos employees showing the Jen-ii (left) and Idola cyber-tablets. (Inset) Abdul Wahab.

incorporate the device in their packages.

TM and the government are spending a total of RM15.6 billion to ensure that the country will have a top-notch, competitive, high-

speed broadband infrastructure in the next decade.

Abdul Wahab said that Idola will feature full-fledged personal computer (PC) capabilities and will serve as a smart and affordable

solution for innovative learning.

"Idola is meant for schools and the recipients are likely to be the schools Intel works with," he added, saying that the device will boast features like touch-screen and wireless connectivity.

A technology recipient has already been identified for further development of Idola to meet market needs.

Abdul Wahab declined to identify the party, except to say that the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation will be passing on the technology to the designated recipient by the third quarter of the year.

It is learnt however, that the Association of the Computer and Multimedia Industry (Pikom) will be the likely technology recipient for Idola.

Intel Electronics (M) Sdn Bhd marketing manager Norhizam Kadir when contacted said: "The collaboration between Mimos and Intel is one of Mimos' initiatives intended to meet the fast-growing digital needs in Malaysia.

"The mobile device prototype supports the low-cost computing concept which is aligned with the Malaysian government's vision to provide affordable and accessible computing for first-time PC users," he added.