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Boost for local tech commercialisation

By Izwan Ismail

MORE opportunities abound for local technology companies to grow and even break into international markets. The Association of the Computer and Multimedia Industry Malaysia (Pikom) and Mimos have teamed up to speed up the commercialisation of locally developed technology in the information and communications technology (ICT) field.

Pikom's president C.J. Ang said both parties will work to identify market requirements in the local ICT industry and match those requirements against technology clusters developed at the Mimos laboratories. The technology clusters include advanced informatics, grid computing, information security, knowledge technology, microsystems and MEMs, and communications technology.

"The collaboration opens up numerous possibilities in terms of development of new ICT solutions for the local market and also overseas. The pact suits well into Pikom's five-year strategic plan, which is to double the Malaysian ICT market size from about RM40 billion in 2007 to RM80 billion in 2012."

Ang said Pikom will not favour any technology platform from Mimos for its members to work on. "We have close to 1,000 members and their businesses go across all the technology platforms. It's up to them to work on whatever technology that suits them."

Meanwhile, Mimos' president and chief executive officer Datuk Abdul Wahab Abdullah said the technology platforms developed by Mimos will be worth RM200 billion in terms of market size by 2012.

"For local companies, the Pikom-Mimos partnership will

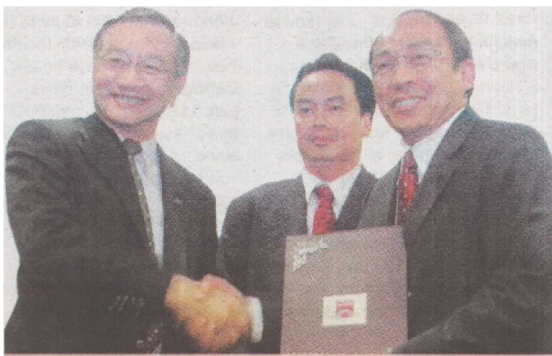
give them the ability to focus on building the brand and the marketing channel without having to invest in research, which has a long gestation period and high market uncertainty."

One criterion for selection is that the recipient company must have a domain technology expertise to enable it to build the products.

To date, Mimos has transferred its technology platforms to 12 companies, with another 62 in the pipeline.

"Besides transferring of technology, Mimos does transfer knowledge and competency via training to the technology recipients held at its headquarters," said Abdul Wahab.

In cases where the required technology has not yet been developed, Mimos will work closely with the potential intended recipients to map out their specific requirements and needs.



Ang (left) seals the Pikom-Mimos partnership with Abdul Wahab while Dr Raslan Ahmad, under-secretary of Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry, looks on.