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Mimos to hire more staff, expand projects

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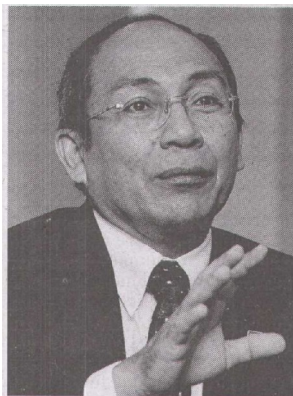
MIMOS Bhd, the government-owned research and development (R&D) entity, plans to grow by hiring more people, setting up new laboratories and doing more research with partners.

"We are also looking at engaging indigenous industries through technology transfer and commercialisation efforts," Mimos' chief executive officer and president Datuk Abdul Wahab Abdullah told Business Times.

Without disclosing how many new hires Mimos will take on this year, Abdul Wahab said:

"The hiring of new talents is to support the ever-increasing need and expansion of our current projects, and also to support our two new green technology and nano electronic clusters respectively."

Mimos' existing pool of R&D professionals are those involved in basic and advanced research, along



Abdul Wahab says the company is looking at engaging indigenous industries through technology transfer and commercialisation efforts

with advanced technology and product development activities.

Abdul Wahab said the new staff

hired will be deployed at both Mimos' sites at Technology Park Malaysia (TPM) in Kuala Lumpur and the Kulim High Technology Park in Kedah.

As for the new labs, they will support the activities in green technology and nano electronics.

Under the Ninth Malaysia Plan, Mimos established eight laboratories in advanced informatics, communication technology, cyberspace security, encryption systems, grid computing, knowledge technology, micro energy and micro systems.

Abdul Wahab did not disclose investment figures for the existing and new laboratories.

Of the 12 Tier-1 technology recipients nurtured by Mimos last year, three are going global.

They include Bill Adam Associates Sdn Bhd, which has introduced the United Kingdom's first mobile phone mapping application developed at Mimos.

The second company set to go

global, Abdul Wahab said, is CeedTec Sdn Bhd, which has received a contract for 100,000 units of the Mimos WiWi Gen 1.5, which is the world's first WiMax and WiFi hybrid environmentally friendly plug-and-play instant broadband hotspot technology".

Meanwhile, Innovision Business Solutions (M) Sdn Bhd is set to manufacture sensors for a Dubai-based client.

"There are currently a total of 160 potential technology recipients for 21 Mimos technology platforms," Abdul Wahab said.

He said Mimos currently has 740 patent disclosures and 270 patents filed, of which 86 have been filed globally.

"Our target," Abdul Wahab said, "is to have 100 patents filed annually and to have 1,000 patent disclosures by the end of this year".

Prior to July 2006, Mimos had only 2 patents filed.