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PC on your wrist

Four Mimos designers have put together the country's new generation of PCs. **IZWAN ISMAIL** gets the details

SAHARUDIN Busri and colleagues Mohd Nizam Najmuddin, Nuzairi Yasin and Mohd Rohaizam Tahar have been very busy these days.

For the past six months, these designers at Mimos Berhad have been working on a prototype of the WristPC, a full-function PC you can wear on your wrist.

New-age PC

The idea for the product came about from a brainstorming session the team had six months ago.

"We've always wanted to come up with something new and after many discussions and industrial drawings, the concept product was born.

"Once it goes into production in two years, it will surely change how people view the computer," says Saharudin.

He describes the WristPC as a quartz watch with a giant screen.

Apart from computer functions, it will serve as a mobile phone.

And its portability and design will make it ideal for staying connected to the Internet 24x7.

One side of the adjustable wristband will feature a 3.5-inch curved touch-screen and a keypad. The display panel can be positioned at various angles so the user can face the screen comfortably while using the device.

The wristband keypad and the display panel can also be separated and placed on a tabletop for a two-hand operation.

Digital convergence

Saharudin says the device will be targeted at executives who are

on the go and those into online games and social networking.

While researching for the WristPC concept, the team learnt from social studies and observations that people liked to stay connected whenever possible. "At coffee outlets, we see patrons surfing on their netbooks, which can be quite troublesome as they have to lug them around.

"Studies also show that Asians like to be associated with fashionable gadgets — they love decorating their devices to make a fashion statement.

"So, the wearable PC should be a natural progression for them," explains Saharudin.

Inspiration

The months of hard work paid off for the four designers. They received the Red Dot Design award for the WristPC at an award ceremony in Singapore last month. They even beat Nokia, Sony Ericsson and LG for the award.

Saharudin says Mimos is now mulling over which company to mass-produce the WristPC.

Previously, the team had designed other Mimos products that had gone into production, including the Idola PC, an agriculture probe and a WiMax transmitter.

And they are not stopping at the WristPC. "We're working on a tablet PC design and a smaller WristPC more suitable for women," says Saharudin.



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(From right) Saharudin with his industrial design team, Nizam, Rohaizam and Nuzairi, showing off the WristPC

