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# High hopes for e-learning

**Sean Augustin**

**PUTRAJAYA:** Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin urged private companies to use technology developed by local research centres.

He also wants the electronic learning (e-learning) industry to flourish in tandem with the development of the country's telecommunication infrastructure.

"I have high hopes for the e-learning industry to complement the technology development efforts of local research centres," he said at the

launching of the Tutor Intelligent Learning Management System (Tutor iLMS), here, yesterday.

The launching saw an exchange of documents for a Technology Licensing Agreement between Mimos Bhd and Perfisio Solutions and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Majlis Amanah Rakyat (Mara) and Mimos.

Present were Deputy Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Fadillah Yusof, Mimos chair-

man Datuk Suriah Abdul Rahman and Mara chairman Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh.

Muhyiddin said Perfisio Solutions had been tasked by Mimos to help improve and commercialise Tutor iLMS, both at home and abroad.

Perfisio Solutions will also undertake the Proof of Concept at institutions under Mara, namely Mara Junior Science College (MRSM) and the Mara Skills Training Institutes (IKM).

Muhyiddin, who is also education minister, said other than Mimos and the universities, a large number of other local research centres, such as Sirim, were also active in developing new innovative technology applications annually.

Mimos president and chief executive officer Datuk Abdul Wahab Abdullah said the technology development agency had targeted to increase the number of intellectual

properties to be filed with the Patent Cooperation Treaty this year.

"Last year, we registered the highest number of applicants at 49 per cent of the overall number of applicants made by technology developers in the country."

Abdul Wahab said the technology yielded by Mimos was on par, if not better than the foreign technology

and was far more reasonably priced.

"Even key technology drivers such as India are also using technology developed by Mimos," he said, adding that to date, 25 local companies had signed the Technology Licensing Agreement with Mimos.

Mara chairman Datuk Idris Jusoh said the organisation was undertaking the pioneer project for the Proof of Concept at four MRSM in Merbok, Kota Putra, Trolak and Tun Razak and one IKM in Sungai Petani.

"We will expand the use of the e-learning system in all the MRSM next year," he added.