



Headline	REDtone aims to have 20,000 Wi-Fi hotspots by 2014		
MediaTitle	The Sun		
Date	23 May 2012	Color	Full Color
Section	Business Feature	Circulation	270,506
Page No	17	Readership	171,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	171 cm ²
Journalist	PREMALATHA JAYARAMAN	AdValue	RM 3,041
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 12,164



REDtone aims to have 20,000 Wi-Fi hotspots by 2014

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KUALA LUMPUR: REDtone International Bhd plans to have 20,000 Wi-Fi hotspots by 2014 given the rising demand for Wi-Fi services, said its group managing director Datuk Wei Chuan Beng.

By year-end, REDtone will have some 4,500 Wi-Fi hotspots.

"There are a lot of opportunities for us to expand Wi-Fi usage. Today, Wi-Fi services are available in shopping malls, coffee shops, companies and even in some homes. There are over 10,000 hotspots available nationwide. In the next five years, the total number of Wi-Fi hotspots could extend to over 50,000," Wei told reporters after the signing of a MoU between REDtone and MIMOS Bhd here yesterday. The signing was witnessed by Second Finance Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah.

According to Wei, REDtone can install at least 100 hotspots and has allocated between RM10 million and RM30 million for capital expenditure annually.

He said the company will collaborate and co-invest with some of its telecommunication partners to install the hotspots.



On the MoU, Wei said REDtone Telecommunications Sdn Bhd is teaming up with MIMOS to provide WiWi and Intelligence Surveillance Platform (ISP) technologies.

Under the MoU, REDtone becomes a MIMOS technology recipient with usage rights for the latter's WiWi and ISP technology for three years.

Wei said it will help boost REDtone's

competitive edge and enable it to participate in different types of ICT projects. He said the company could also bring the WiWi and ISP technologies to international markets when the opportunity arises.

He said REDtone will develop a pilot site based on WiWi and ISP technologies while MIMOS will provide the technical support.