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ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS

MIMOS spurring E&E development

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MIMOS Bhd is at the forefront of empowering the Electrical and Electronics (E&E) industry via frontier research activities.

MIMOS Bhd Research and Development senior director Mohd Shahiman Sulaiman said the company had five labs in this area developing technology to spur the competitive growth of the E&E industry.

Shahiman said the labs used advanced nanomaterials for nanoelectronics and flexible printed electronics, with core activities in chemical and nanomaterial researches.

The nanosemiconductor devices lab focuses on technologies relevant to the semiconductor industry, with target companies like SilTerra, XFab, OSRAM and Infineon.

There is also an integrated circuit design centre, as well as photonics sensor systems technology and wireless technology and system designs labs that cover advanced electronics system design, encompassing integrated circuits, biophotonics sensor systems, advanced communication technologies and the Internet of Things (IOT).

Mohd Shahiman Sulaiman

"As the E&E industry is a significant contributor to the country's gross domestic product and is the largest export earner for the nation, MIMOS will assist E&E companies in terms of technology and cultivating the industry ecosyste. From a technology perspective, for example, we help companies involved in IOT for oil and gas, as well as agriculture.

"There are also companies focusing on medical devices, electronics and advanced materials," Shahiman said.

MIMOS played a role in terms of infrastructure and shared services for semiconductor companies and their supply chain, as well as in E&E product manufacturing.

MIMOS also provided consultancy and expert services for technology development and smart manufacturing to manufacturers, indigenous industries and equipment automation for companies.

Shahiman added that MIMOS offered testing services, as one of the test lab's failure analysis and material analysis could be used as a tool to help companies maximise their revenue from a particular product by properly addressing the product's failures or defects at an early stage.

"As companies often mass produce, even a loss of one per cent would affect them greatly as yield is critical for companies."

He said as companies explored research and development in technology (R&D), MIMOS would also help them grow by licencing their outputs to them.

In return, they would receive royalty payments.

"Some companies may not have the capital to invest heavily in R&D, so this is where MIMOS can play its role."

He said by bringing the technology to the companies, it would cultivate the entire E&E ecosystem as the components in a product could be produced by multiple companies at a time, providing business opportunities and employment.

As the E&E sector continues to grow, Shahiman said, the company was looking into advanced material such as developing graphene electronic circuits.

"In the future, we want the electronic devices to be placed on a flexible material."

Examples include having devices like sensors printed on clothes.

Shahiman said MIMOS, as an agency under the International Trade and Industry Ministry had contributed in the effort to move companies towards the Industrial Revolution 4.0 (IR4.0) by identifying those which required assistance.

MIMOS has helped 300 to 400 small-and medium-scaled enterprises.

It is also assisting six companies to transform into IR4.0-ready establishments.

Shahiman said in addressing the shortage of talent in the industry, MIMOS had opened its door for on-the-job training and exposure for industry engineers, as well as students from higher learning institutions.

"The availability of a skilled workforce is critical for the nation to be competitive and this will result in more foreign direct investment."