

Headline **Mimos spearheads new IP strategy**
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Ongkili with the representatives of companies that Mimos will be working with to take its technology platforms to the market. Forging closer ties with industry is a pillar of the National IP policy.

Mimos spearheads new IP strategy

| BY KARAMJIT SINGH |

The transformation of Mimos seems to be gathering pace. The organisation that used to be waved aside by the ICT industry is remaking itself as a research set-up that is fast gaining respect. No longer are people scornful when Mimos calls itself the country's premier applied research centre in frontier technologies.

The recent Mimos Technology Preview (MTP), the fourth in a series called "Innovating New Economy", opened to a full house last week, in conjunction with the National ICT Month (NIM) (see Pages 2 and 3). Over 150 entrepreneurs and executives from local and multinational corporations attended the full-day session, shooting questions at the various Mimos presenters.

The attendance reflected a significant increase in interest in, and uptake of, its technology platforms. To date, Mimos has transferred its technology platforms to eight local companies and received 76 technology transfer applications from potential technology recipients. The target is to have more than 100 technology transfer applications by the end of the year. Mimos has developed a total of 21

technology prototypes.

"Our applied research efforts are only successful when our technology platforms find a place in the market," said Mimos president and chief executive Datuk Abdul Wahab Abdullah.

This shows that Mimos is not interested in just churning out patents or technology disclosures to chase numbers but is geared towards meeting industry needs. This will add value to the technology and with market insight, it will create a product that the market wants. For the record, thus far, Mimos has 260 patents and filed over 600 technology disclosures.

More importantly, Mimos is transferring technology for commercialisation. As Wahab says, "We are focused on the process of technology transfer for commercialisation, in line with efforts to create a funnel of innovation to push our indigenous industries onto the global market."

Working with industry, research institutes in the country and overseas and universities, Mimos aims to build a vibrant technology ecosystem that will become a source of national economic development and wealth creation. "The ultimate goal is to drive technology from a tool to an enabler and subsequently a sector," Wahab said.

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The MTP, which is part of the commercialisation efforts of Mimos, provides access to technology platforms developed by the organisation that are ready for commercialisation by indigenous industries. Held every six months, it is designed to attract more technology recipients to take up the technology platforms to enhance their existing products and services for the global market.

"The MTP is a key platform to bridge the gaps from research to commercialisation of our technology platforms by indigenous industries and is part of our efforts to help companies demonstrate their proof-of-concepts in the Malaysian market before taking them global," Wahab explains. Mimos will work out licensing fees with each partner on an individual basis but which will be premised on a win-win basis.

In conjunction with this MTP, Mimos transferred its technology platforms to three local companies — Jaring Communications Sdn Bhd, Mutiara.Com and Smart Computing Sdn Bhd.

Jaring received Grid Computing version 2.1 (a large-scale computing platform that coordinates the sharing of complex computational power across geographically dispersed organisations on a network useful for applications in the financial services, manufacturing, agriculture, digital media, life sciences and healthcare) while Mutiara.Com received the Knowledge Engineering Platform version 1 (a grid-based platform that offers a suite of service-oriented architecture-based software components, with the right tools to build, integrate and interoperate with Intelligent Web applications for business analytics applications in predictive analytics, technical compliance and complexity management).

Smart Computing received JEN-ii and iDola (JEN-ii is an Internet access device used as a government information delivery platform; iDola is a tablet PC weighing 900g based on the AMD processor, which is targeted at the education market and highly mobile users).

Mimos also exchanged technology licensing agreements (TLA) with six local companies, namely Disability Solutions Sdn Bhd, Alam Teknokrat Sd Bhd, Innovision Business Solutions

Sdn Bhd, Phytofolia Sdn Bhd, Quantum Beez Sdn Bhd and Fabtronic Sdn Bhd. It will transfer the technology platforms to the recipients to develop their own targeted verticals or market segments.

Mimos also exchanged memorandums of understandings (MoU) with nine local companies, namely Extol MSC Bhd, Ashtech Systems Sdn Bhd, Mexter MSC Sdn Bhd, WannaStation.com (M) Sdn Bhd, Content Capital Sdn Bhd, Penta-soft Malaysia Sdn Bhd, Orea Technologies Sdn Bhd, My-Partners Surveillance Solutions Sdn Bhd and Digicert Sdn Bhd.

Wahab stressed that companies that sign the MoU would have gone through a process of tiering based on their competence level. This is critical as on the execution of the MoU, the recipients will go through the process of training, developing a business model and business strategy to incorporate Mimos' technology into their product planning and commercialisation.

The MTP was witnessed by Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Datuk Dr Maximus Ongkili. The minister said anything Mimos develops that is security-related will go to the government first for it to decide if it wants to deploy the technology. "Anything else, we will pass to industry first as the economic impact will be greater." \

Ongkili also said that the Cabinet had decided that the government will not hold the IP for any research that it funds and will instead release it to industry to take advantage of. This was part of the National IP Policy launched two months ago.

The minister said it was not easy to get the Cabinet to agree to this as the natural reaction was that the government should own a portion of any IP created out of its funding but a new line of thinking prevailed. The clear failure of the previous policy of owning the majority of any public-funded IP was a major factor in the drive to try a new approach. What Mimos is doing puts it at the forefront of the approach. It is hoped that this strategy will be much more fruitful. ■

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