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# Mimos to launch PC for the masses

A HOME-GROWN personal computer (PC) for the masses will make its debut early next year when Mimos Bhd launches a tablet PC.

It is learnt that the low-end PC, which is meant for use by housewives and in schools, will have Internet access and will come in two models.

It will also have voice-activated features where the PC's terminal can be used as a telephone and users will also be able to email.

The project is said to be a brainchild of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi who had instructed Mimos to introduce an affordable computer to bridge the digital divide.

"The high-end model of the PC, which is meant for use in schools will be priced at below US\$300 (RM1,008), while the lower-end

one for homes will cost less than US\$100 (RM336)," industry sources told Business Times.

It is learnt that the concept of the new PC will be unveiled to the Prime Minister next week during the National Innovation Conference and Exhibition at the Putra World Trade Centre.

The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (Mosti) is said to be collaborating with technology partners in Taiwan and India for the affordable PC

project.

Sources say that the proof of concept for the PC has already been carried out by Mimos and it will soon submit this to the Economic Planning Unit in the Prime Minister's Department for implementation.

The project is expected to be linked to Mosti's 'K-School' programme, which was launched early this year.

The 'K-School' project is aimed at improving education delivery

and school administration through information and communications technology-based systems and tools to ensure Malaysia's long-term competitiveness in the knowledge-economy.

Sekolah Menengah Agama Bukit Ibam in Pahang was chosen as the pilot site for the project to ensure that religious-based schools in the rural areas are not left behind in technological advancement.