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Executives from the national research agency say projects are evaluated against current market standards and expectations.

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ore than 100 projects are being tested at a new Centre of Excellence [Coe] for Testing, according to Malaysian government research agency MIMOS, in a statement issued in late August.

"To date, more than 100 different projects have been undertaken by the CoE for Testing, ranging from performance, functional, security, hardware reliability, wireless devices, network to usability tests," said MIMOS CoE director, Redzuan Abdullah.

"This includes comparative and competitive analysis and benchmarking to determine the feasibility of the tested products against the current market standards and expectations," said Redzuan, adding that the centre is rapidly becoming the preferred end-to-end and ondemand software and hardware testing provider of choice. "MIMOS CoE for Testing offers a comprehensive test strategy, test management and quality assurance required by most software and hardware products."

"For example, usability testing measures the ease of use of a specific product," said Redzuan.

"The emphasis is now on trying to get clients involved in usability reviews during the design phase, when problems can be identified before anything is developed. The Malaysian technology industry needs to be more aware of usability. At the end of the day, what users want is convenience and results."

"Unlike in other usability labs, MIMOS Usability Lab comprises an observation room and a test room that is equipped with eye-

tracking systems that generates 'heat maps' to show the area most gazed at and whether the main message of the product is drawing the most attention," he said.

Redzuan added that MIMOS usability tests revealed any deficiencies in the product design and provided recommendations to improve the design.

World Class Labs

Redzuan said CoE included three fully equipped state-of-the-art

laboratories. "Namely, a system test lab, usability lab and hardware reliability lab. The system test lab combined with the usability lab allows MIMOS to offer robust, rigorous, scientific, independent endto-end testing and consulting services. The hardware reliability lab caters for extensive electrical, physical and mechanical hardware analysis in compliance with MIL, ISO, IEC and JEDEC [testing] standards."

"With world-class testing facilities, domain expertise, certified test professionals and continuous testing research, MIMOS CoE for Testing is wellpositioned to ensure software and hardware products are of worldclass quality," he said.

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"MIMOS CoE for Testing collaborates with local and foreign higher learning institutions, organisations and multinational companies in conducting test research, automation and usability testing in Malaysia," said Redzuan. "Testimonials from satisfied customers highlight the major improvements in the overall product quality based on the test findings and recommendations. We continuously push the limits when it comes to testing."