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MIMOS, ORACLE TIE UP IN PRECISION AGRICULTURE
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By JO TIMBUONG

MIMOS, ORACLE TIE UP IN PRECISION AGRICULTURE

KUALA LUMPUR: Soon plantation managers and farmers can turn to IT to help them better monitor their crops.

This is made possible with a memorandum of understanding between national applied research body, Mimos Bhd and enterprise software company, Oracle Malaysia to work on the Sensor Grid project.

The project, which comes under the KnowledgeGrid Malaysia initiative, marries Oracle's Fusion Middleware and Databases technologies with Mimos' research in precision sensors.

KnowledgeGrid Malaysia is a grid computing platform that aims to create secure and inexpensive access to computing power and is one of the initiatives under the Ninth Malaysia Plan.

Technologies from Oracle and Mimos will be used for the real-time collection, storage and processing of data gathered from precision agriculture micro-electro mechanical systems (Mems) sensors.

The gathered data will be used to develop future applications such as for the real-time monitoring of crops as well as proactive and preventive care solutions for the agriculture industry.

"The commercial potential for an agricultural grid solution is tremendous in Malaysia where the agriculture sector is a key generator for economic growth," said Mimos president and chief executive officer Datuk Abdul Wahab Abdullah.

Abdul Wahab said Mimos is currently performing "Alpha" tests for the solution at its Technology Park Malaysia headquarters in Sungai Besi and at the University Putra Malaysia campus in Serdang.

"We plan to conduct Beta testing sometime in the second quarter of the year when we

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ABDUL WAHAB ABDULLAH
MIMOS PRESIDENT AND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

transfer the technologies we've researched to the industries," he said.

When asked about pricing, Abdul Wahab said the solution would be competitively priced.

He said that initially, the solution will be targeted at large agricultural companies, including those involved in managing rubber estates and palm oil plantations.

"The solution will not be immediately rolled-out to the masses but eventually it will be ready for use by individual farmers," he said.

Abdul Wahab added that scientists at Mimos are continuously improving the solution to bring it down to a price level where even regular farmers can afford it.

He said there are already companies that have shown interest in the solution, and the first to receive it would be a company involved in agricultural development within the Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER).

However he did not go into further details on how the solution will be used in the NCER, saying that it would be announced when Mimos starts rolling out its technologies to the industry.

The NCER is a Government initiative to accelerate economic growth and income levels in northern Peninsular Malaysia, which includes the states of Perlis, Kedah, Penang and the northern part of Perak.



IT SOLUTION: Abdul Wahab (left) with Oracle Corporation Malaysia managing director K.Raman, at the press conference after the MoU signing to develop and deploy a Sensor Grid pilot project for the agriculture business sector. - Bernama