

Headline	Scan to be Mimos' first commercialisation partner		
Date	19. Nov 2007	Language	ENGLISH
Media Title	The Edge Financial Daily	Page No	2
Section	Home Business	Article Size	195 cm2
Circulation	0	Frequency	Daily
Readership	0	Color	Full Color



Scan to be Mimos' first commercialisation partner

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KUALA LUMPUR: Mimos Bhd will be signing on Mesdaq-listed Scan Associates Bhd (Scan) as its first partner to commercialise its research.

Its president and chief executive officer Datuk Abdul Wahab Abdullah told *The Edge Financial Daily* on the sidelines of a media retreat in Langkawi last week that the research organisation will be signing on Scan following approval from the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (Mosti) this month.

He said an announcement on the partnership between both organisations was expected to be made during the National Innovation Conferences and Exhibitions 2007 on Nov 30.

Scan was selected by Mosti's commercialisation unit to commercialise Mimos' information security research, he said. A typical partnership agreement would be two years, he added.

Last month, Scan announced that it was in talks with Mimos for a possible collaboration. It said the collaboration would include Mimos' cyber security research output, such as Certificate Authority Engine for MyKad code-named CA4MyKad, First Live CD,

Cyber Early Warning System (CEWS) and Secure Electronic Document System (SEDS).

Information security is one of five technology clusters that Mimos' research efforts are centred on. The other four are grid computing, knowledge technology, wireless communications and microelectro mechanical systems (MEMS) and nanoelectro mechanical systems (NEMS).

On industry partnerships in the other four areas, Wahab said Mimos was awaiting a list of partners from Mosti.

Earlier, during a media briefing, he told reporters that Mimos aimed to engage with industry partners to commercialise its technologies by 2Q next year. "By 1Q we will be ready to pass on (our technology platforms) to the industry," he said.

According to Wahab, once Mosti selected a partner, the partner firm would build solutions using Mimos' technology platforms. Mimos meanwhile, would receive royalties for its technology platforms from these partner firms, he said.

The company pays 55% of research royalties to its researchers, while the remaining 45% goes to Mimos to cover administration costs

involved, he added.

Mimos' commercialisation plans will also include tapping into the economic corridors, Wahab said. "We want to ensure that our technology flagships are taken to economic corridors."

Elaborating, he said the Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER), with its focus on agricultural development, offered opportunities to deploy Mimos' MEMS and NEMS technologies in the modernisation of agriculture, such as soil monitoring systems for improving quality of crops and higher yields, he said.

In the East Coast Economic Region (ECER), Mimos hoped to tap into the region's cultural and arts heritage by using its grid computing platform to develop the animation industry and human capital.

"This will be done in tandem with MDEC, which is pushing for ICT focus in ECER," he added.

As for the Iskandar Development Region (IDR) the south, Wahab said while Mimos had the technology solutions, they first had to identify the IDR's requirements. Wahab also said Mimos planned to file 50 patents by year-end. It has to date filed 34 patents and 243 patent disclosures to date.