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Pernec Corporation

Press Release

Pernec's Helo Spot to accelerate nation's broadband penetration

Pernec PayPoint Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of Pernec Corporation Bhd, is ready to complement the on-going initiative to enhance broadband internet penetration with its Helo Spot platform, a revolutionary delivery method of broadband infrastructure deployment.

With its existing payphone sites country-wide as a base, Pernec PayPoint will be able to efficiently utilise its existing infrastructure, providing a fast deployment of wireless broadband internet connectivity, said Pernec Managing Director Abdul Karim Abdul Sallam.

At present, Pernec PayPoint has numerous ready sites across the country, covering both major commercial as well as remote areas. The Helo Spot platform, said Abdul Karim, will be an excellent option to increase broadband coverage in the rural areas in view of its readily available payphone sites.

The full serviceability of Helo Spot was the centre of Pernec's range of telecommunications services and products showcased at the Digital Pagoh Muar Carnival which was officiated by Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin in Pagoh, Johor today.

"We are offering Helo payphone sites to other Telco service providers for them to expand their network coverage and to offer their services to the public. Currently we have 35,000 locations available sites and will be expanding the number with an additional 5,000, bringing the total to 40,000 by the end of this year. With these readily available sites, telcos will be able to deploy their network with immediate effect

"We are also offering WiFi connectivity at selected payphone locations nationwide called Helo Hotzone. This is a service where everyone can use either wireless-enabled PC or other devices to connect to the Wireless-Internet-Broadband-Over-Payphone (WIBOP). The service is wired to our payphones and gives internet access to the surrounding community," said Abdul Karim.

Helo Spot is a multi platform technology which means that it is compatible with all the existing mobile telecommunications platforms such as GSM, WiMAX, CDMA, PSTN and VSAT.

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In addition, Helo Spot is a low-cost solution for network operators to expand their coverage as it utilizes renewable energy resources such as solar. For higher power requirements, the system can also be equipped with a wind turbine for its source of energy.

“The Helo Spot platform involves a deployment cost of about RM15,000 as it doesn’t require new infrastructure, depending on the configurations required by the Telcos,” said Abdul Karim.

One of the greatest issues faced by telecommunications service providers in expanding service coverage is site acquisitions, a fact well known among the industry players due to the myriads of issues involved.

If left unchecked, this issue could seriously affect the Government’s aspirations to bolster the level of broadband penetration among the Malaysian households in line with the Key Performance Index as most operators will be saddled with the problems of acquiring suitable sites for their respective base stations in order for them to offer internet connectivity.

The United Nations International Telecommunication Union (ITU) had said that a vital expansion of broadband networks holds the key to rapid growth in productivity in developing countries and the potential to enhance global peace and justice.

According to the ITU, broadband networks will change the way governments offer essential services from education and health care to transportation, water and energy. By delivering efficiencies across all of these areas, broadband networks can quickly pay for themselves, creating a virtuous circle of investment, productivity and human development.

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About Pernec Corporation Bhd

Pernec Corporation Bhd was established in 1973 and is a joint venture between Amanah Raya Bhd (Skim Amanah Saham Bumiputera), Permodalan Nasional Bhd and NEC Corporation of Japan. Under the group, there are seven subsidiaries focusing on different areas of information and communications technologies such as telecommunications infrastructure, manufacturing and services, IT infrastructure and solutions, e-Business, Islamic financial solutions and payphones operations.

Since its inception, Pernec has charted a steady growth in its operations and today is recognised as one of the key players in the telecommunications and ICT fields, providing various solutions and products to a wide range of customers locally and abroad, particularly in the telecommunications sector.

In line with its renewed business strategy, the group has identified a number of new initiatives such as the eRas system, green energy and the Halalsquare and eBekal business portals as potential revenue streams to remain in the forefront in the competitive telecommunications and ICT businesses.