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Pernec Corporation

Press Release

Pernec PayPoint equips wireless broadband network to SibU rural folks

SIBU, May 12: Pernec Corporation Bhd has taken a further step in accelerating the bridging of digital divide between rural and urban communities with the official launch of the Kampung WiFi network at Kampung Bahagia Jaya, Teku, SibU, Sarawak today to support the Government's National Broadband Initiative (NBI).

Pernec, through its subsidiary Pernec PayPoint Sdn Bhd, has been tasked to provide the wireless broadband network at the Kampung WiFi network programme, providing rural folks in Kampung Bahagia Jaya a speedier access to information through the Internet.

According to Pernec managing director Abdul Karim Abdul Sallam, the project is implemented primarily for the benefit of the rural people in SibU and has the potential to be expanded into other rural areas that have payphones which can be turned into hot spots for wireless broadband.

"Within two months of deployment of the Network Service Provider licence secured from the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission, Kampung Bahagia Jaya will be the third Proof of Concept (POC) of our innovative eRas 1.8 wireless broadband system after Kampung Gita, Kuching as well as the Kuching Waterfront.

For Release on 12th May 2010

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“In addition to providing the hardware, Pernec PayPoint is also promoting the content/application aspect through our Halalsquare business portal and we are also working on some educational applications for students.”

Pernec PayPoint has 12,000 hot-spot locations through its payphones in Sarawak and 35,000 in the whole of Malaysia which can be utilised to provide wireless broadband network using its revolutionary eRas (extended radio access system) 1.8 system.

eRas is the world's first hybrid WiFi and WiMAX solution which operates on 2.3 GHz frequency designed as an alternative for last mile broadband connectivity to accelerate Malaysia's broadband ecosystem and is fully ready for nationwide commercialisation.

eRas 1.8 is the expansion of the eRas 1.5 system and is an outdoor unit that has the ability to cover a wider area for Internet access while the 1.5 system's coverage is limited to indoor.

“With the availability of the 12,000 locations, the MCMC (Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission) can leverage on Pernec PayPoint's existing facilities to speed up the level of broadband penetration, particularly among the rural folks,” said Abdul Karim.

Studies have shown that as Q4 of last year, 31.7% of Malaysian total households have subscribed to broadband network while for rural communities, the figure is estimated to be in the region of 16%.

Assuming that all the 12,000 locations are used to provide wireless broadband service, the level of broadband penetration for the rural areas can be enhanced to over 20%, Abdul Karim said.

In announcing the NBI, the Government had said that the implementation of broadband that aimed to achieve a 50% target by end of this year, would help create 135,000 new high value jobs in the ICT sector.

The implementation of broadband services will create spin-off effect in other sectors such as engineering, local content development and broadcasting.

Ends.

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 technology 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.