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Pernec Corporation

Press Release

Pernec partners Mimos to showcase eRas at WIEF

KUALA LUMPUR: Pernec Corporation Bhd expects the innovative eRas – extended radio access system – service to receive a significant interest from delegates at the 6th World Islamic Economic Forum held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre from May 18-20, 2010.

eRas system is Pernec's own rebranded WiWi technology platform acquired from Mimos Bhd and was officially unveiled in February this year. It 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.

According to Pernce managing director Abdul Karim Abdul Sallam, eRAS is designed with ease-of-use in mind, offering a simple and intuitive web-based configuration interface that offers a true experience of instantaneous multi-user internet access over a WiFi connectivity.

"eRAS as a true plug-and-play wireless network solution. Users only need to power it up to create and instant internet hotspot for various application scenarios and modular concept also allows interchanges of modules to support multiple WiMAX standards," Abdul Karim said.

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Since the award of the Network Service Provider licence from the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission in March this year which allows the payphones operated by subsidiary Pernec Paypoint to offer broadband services over payphones or BBOPP, Pernec has to date implemented three Proofs of Concept (POC) of the system.

The latest POC was officiated by Information, Communications and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Utama Rais Yatim on May 12 at Kampung Bahagia Jaya in Sibul. The remaining POC are also located in Sarawak, specifically at Kampung Gita, Kuching and the Kuching Waterfront.

At the moment, Pernec has over 35,000 payphones nationwide which can be broadband-enabled. The BBOPP project is positioned to support the National Broadband Initiative, the goal of which is to have a 50% broadband penetration among households in Malaysia in 2010, said Abdul Karim.

In terms of target area, he noted that eRas can be used by virtually in all areas, urban or rural. However, those in the urban areas will be able to enjoy a higher speed as fibre optic cables can be used to connect the payphones while for the rural community, the connection can be done wireless utilizing the 3G or WiMAX services .

Meanwhile, Abdul Karim said the 6th World Islamic Economic Forum is an excellent platform for Pernec to showcase its technologies and reach out to vast potential markets in Islamic countries, particularly in the Middle East with the presence of notable leaders from the Gulf Region, African continent, East Asia and around the world .

Through eRas, he added that Pernec can contribute its expertise in technology and innovation to provide greater communication accessibility to all Muslim nations.

About Per nec Corporation Bhd

Per nec 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, Per nec 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.