

## MLabs eyes early 2008 launch for streaming server

By Marina Emmanuel

MLABS Systems Bhd is targeting the launch of its streaming server - Java MCS (multimedia conferencing server) - for cellular phones by early next year.

The company's chairman, Associate Professor Dr Sureswaran Ramadass, said the mobile multimedia streaming system will enable video clips, movies and other streaming features to be sent to mobile phones around the world.



"With the imminent growth in broadband technology in the country, we are confident that this will bring the much needed platform for the global mobile communications market," he said.

He was speaking to reporters after Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) signed a memorandum of understanding with TM Research and Development (TM R&D) in Penang yesterday to develop the mobile multimedia streaming system.

Representing USM was its vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dzulkifli Abdul Razak, while TM R&D's chief executive officer Dr Shahrudin Muslimin signed on behalf of his company.

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Sureswaran

MLabs' cutting-edge technology for its Java MCS lies in the development of a 'multipoint to multipoint' desktop video-conferencing, as opposed to the conventional point-to-point video-conferencing.

This means that several different users - up to several hundreds depending on the server - can do video-conferencing with each other simultaneously from their respective sites on the same bandwidth.

Sureswaran said MLabs hopes to initiate talks with Radio Televisyen Malaysia as a potential partner for its new product.

In his speech, Shahrudin said it is imperative that research and development be viewed as a long-term investment, to bring about profitable returns.

"We agree that failure to recognise the need to have our own R&D will force us to continue to be dependant on foreign technologies," he added, saying that this would not augur well with Malaysia's competitive edge.

"It is therefore important for institutions such as ours to work together and delve into future technology, in helping the country avoid remittance of money overseas, merely for technology transfer and acquisitions," he said.