

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Malaysia Welcomes Tactilis' First Dedicated Biometric Smartcard Manufacturing Facility in Malaysia

Bayan Lepas, 5 April 2018 - Tactilis which manufactures biometric smartcards is setting up its first global facility in Malaysia. The investment based in the Pearl of the Orient will be undergoing transformation to meet the need of global demand and become the Tactilis' Centre of Excellence for its Global Manufacturing and Research & Development. The thrust forward is to convert the plant into a smart factory through its "Industry 4.0" plan.

The Penang facility will be a benchmark for rolling-out to other Tactilis manufacturing centres globally. Its modular manufacturing design supports its strategy for rapid expansion and growth. Penang has been selected by Tactilis with its experienced workforce and microelectronics ecosystem, offering strong infrastructural support.

Tactilis' customer base includes smart cities, private membership programmes, commercial enterprises, private banking and government sectors. The company foresees revenue for the first year to exceed RM200 million, and to more than double the following year. The customers are based in the United States of America, the European Union, and the Middle East.

The Guest of Honour at the opening event was Dato' Azman Mahmud, Chief Executive Officer of the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA), Mr. Michael Gardiner, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Tactilis and Mr. Amedeo D'Angelo, the company's Chairman.

On congratulating Tactilis, Dato' Azman said, "MIDA welcomes Tactilis' establishment which embraces elements of new technologies such as smart manufacturing, Internet-of-Things (IoT) and Industry 4.0. This significant investment will create business and job opportunities for Malaysians. For example, our local suppliers will benefit much especially those in the areas of automation equipment design. This will ultimately boost the competitiveness of our local suppliers in meeting international standards and enable them to integrate themselves into the global value chain."

Tactilis has invested RM36 million to date and plans to invest an additional RM40 million to expand its Penang plant capabilities. This expansion will create another 100 job opportunities.

“This project is an example of the type of investments that we want to see coming into Malaysia. R&D certainly is a key factor in ensuring the viability and future success of any business. I believe with the establishment of this new Centre of Excellence, Tactilis will foster the right environment for innovation and game-changing ideas. The local youth with engineering backgrounds will gain much from the transfer of technology by working hands-on with the experts at Tactilis,” added Dato’ Azman.

In 2017, the country has successfully attracted investments amounting to RM197.1 billion in the manufacturing, services and primary sectors. These were from 5,466 projects that will generate an additional 139,520 job opportunities for the country.

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