E-NEWSLETTER
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MALAYSIA MADANI

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AI

HIGHLIGHTS

Malaysia Attracts RM92.8 Billion in Approved Investments in Q1 2026, Creating Over 50,000 New Jobs

INDUSTRY

Emerging Trends Shaping the Future of Malaysia's Medical Device Industry: Unlocking New Investment Opportunities

SERVICES

Powering the Digital Gold Rush: RE and BESS as the Strategic Backbone of Malaysia's Digital Economy

From the CEO's Desk

Steering Malaysia Towards an Outcome-Driven, High-Growth Future

Dear Valued Partners and Esteemed Stakeholders,

As we move further into 2026, Malaysia continues to strengthen its position as a trusted and competitive destination for quality investment, amid an increasingly dynamic global landscape. While businesses navigate evolving supply chains, rapid technological change and shifting market expectations, **our focus remains clear – to build an economy that is innovative, competitive, and sustainable, creating long-term value for businesses, investors and the rakyat.**

This commitment is reflected in Malaysia's improving global competitiveness. In the International Institute for Management Development (IMD) World Competitiveness Ranking 2026, **Malaysia climbed eight places to 15th among 70 economies—our highest position to date.** This achievement reinforces growing investor confidence in Malaysia's economic fundamentals and policy direction. Building on this momentum, Malaysia secured RM92.8 billion in approved investments during Q1 2026 across the manufacturing, services and primary sectors. More importantly, these investments are expected to create over 50,000 new jobs, underscoring our continued focus on attracting high-quality investments that deliver meaningful economic impact.

Sustaining this growth requires policies that evolve alongside industry needs. Through the implementation of the New Incentive Framework (NIF), Malaysia is transitioning to a more strategic, outcome-based approach to investment incentives by rewarding investments that strengthen technological capabilities, supply chain resilience, talent development, and sustainability. MIDA continues to engage closely with businesses and investors through initiatives such as the ***"Tax Reforms: Navigating the Outcome-Based Era,"*** ensuring investors are well positioned to navigate this new framework with confidence.

Policy alone is not enough. A competitive investment destination must also be supported by a strong ecosystem. This edition highlights MIDA's strategic partnership with ENERtec Asia 2026, reinforcing Malaysia's commitment to advancing clean energy investments that support the country's growing digital economy. As demand accelerates for artificial intelligence (AI), cloud computing, and data centres; Renewable Energy (RE) and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) will play an increasingly important role in powering sustainable and resilient growth.

We also showcase initiatives that are strengthening Malaysia's industrial ecosystem – from the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone (JS-SEZ), which is unlocking new regional investment opportunities, to the continued advancement of our medical technology industry towards higher-value, innovation-driven activities.

Equally important is ensuring that Malaysians and Malaysian companies are well-positioned to benefit from this transformation. Through collaboration with institutions such as the Selangor Human Resource Development Centre (SHRDC) and the Kedah Industrial Skills and Management Development Centre (KISMEC), MIDA continues to strengthen the nation's talent pipeline for advanced manufacturing and emerging industries.

From the CEO's Desk

At the same time, the success story of Sydney Cake House demonstrates how Malaysian enterprises can embrace digitalisation, automation and sustainable practices to improve productivity, strengthen resilience and compete more effectively on the global stage.

The stories featured in this edition reflect more than individual initiatives – they demonstrate how strategic policies, industry partnerships and talent development are coming together to strengthen Malaysia's investment ecosystem.

As we move forward, MIDA remains committed to working closely with our stakeholders to attract quality investments, deepen industrial capabilities, and create opportunities that deliver lasting value for the nation. Together, we will continue building a more innovative, resilient and sustainable future for Malaysia.

Thank you for your continued trust and partnership and support.

DATUK SIKH SHAMSUL IBRAHIM SIKH ABDUL MAJID
Chief Executive Officer
Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA)

DCN 2026 | DATA CENTRE NEXUS

DATA CENTRE NEXUS 2026

Malaysia's Premier Event for AI-Driven Digital Infrastructure and Sustainable Ecosystems

14 September 2026, Monday | **Hilton Kuala Lumpur** | **400+ Participants** | **Government • Industry, Investors • Ecosystem Partners**

WHAT IS DCN 2026?

DCN 2026 is MIDA's flagship event where global digital infrastructure leaders, hyperscalers, data centreoperators, technology innovators, and local supply chain partners connect, collaborate, and shape a sustainable digital future.

Through strategic business matching and industry collaboration, DCN 2026 unlocks new partnerships, bridges global demand with local capabilities, and positions Malaysia's local supply chain to become a trusted partner in the AI-driven cloud and data centre ecosystem to strengthen Malaysia's position as a leading regional digital hub.

STRATEGIC NARRATIVE PILLARS

- AI-Driven Digital Infrastructure
- Sustainable & Resource-Efficient Infrastructure
- Local Ecosystem & Industrial Spillovers
- Digital Technology Accessibility & Adoption

WHAT TO EXPECT AT DCN 2026

- Keynote Sessions
- Panel Discussions
- Fireside Chats
- Executive Spotlight Series
- Business Matching Sessions
- Investment Engagement Sessions
- Networking Opportunities
- Technology Showcase

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

INDUSTRY PLAYERS

- Hyperscalers & Cloud Providers
- Data Centre Developers & Operators
- Telecommunications & Connectivity Companies
- Submarine Cable & Network Operators
- Renewable Energy & Cooling Solution Providers
- Engineering, EPC & Technology Companies

ECOSYSTEM PARTNERS

- Financial Institutions & Investors
- Government Agencies & GLCs
- Universities, Research Institutions & Start-ups
- Local SMEs & Supply Chain Players
- Industry Associations & Professional Bodies

REGISTRATION OPENING SOON

Follow MIDA's official channels for the latest updates

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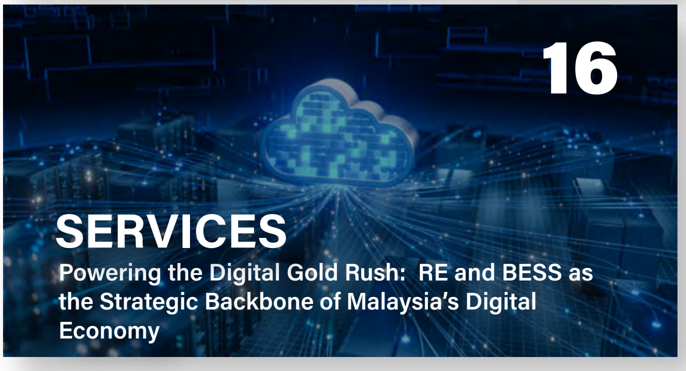
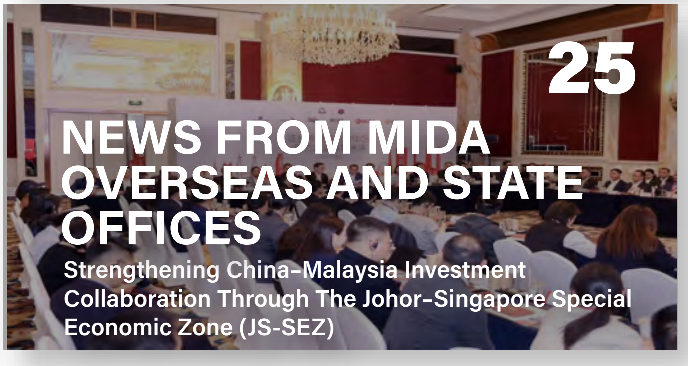




Malaysia Attracts RM92.8 Billion in Approved Investments in Q1 2026, Creating Over 50,000 New Jobs

Malaysia started 2026 on a strong note, recording **RM92.8 billion** in approved investments across 1,249 projects during the first quarter, reflecting continued investor confidence in the country's long-term growth prospects.

Total Approved Investments

RM92.8 (decrease)
(Q1 2025 : RM93.0 billion)

Domestic-to-Foreign Investment Ratio
39 : 61
(Q1 2025 : 35 : 65)

Domestic Investments (DI)
RM36.6 billion (increase)
(Q1 2025 : RM32.4 billion)

New Jobs
50,226 (increase)
(Q1 2025 : 34,240)

Foreign Investments (FI)
RM56.2 billion (decrease)
(Q1 2025 : RM60.6 billion)

Projects
1,249 (decrease)
(Q1 2025 : 2,320)

**Due to rounding, figures presented in this infographic may not add up precisely to the totals provided.*

While overall approved investments remained largely stable compared with the same period in 2025 (-0.2% year-on-year), investment quality continued to strengthen. Approved projects are expected to create **50,226 new jobs** — an increase of **46.7%** year-on-year, demonstrating stronger labour market outcomes and sustained investor confidence.

Balanced Investment Mix Reinforces Investor Confidence

Malaysia maintained a balanced investment profile, with **foreign investments contributing RM56.2 billion (60.5%), while domestic investments grew 13.0% year-on-year to RM36.6 billion (39.5%),** signalling growing confidence among Malaysian businesses.

Japan was the largest foreign investor in Q1 2026 with **RM21.5 billion** - more than thirteen times higher than the same period last year. **China, the United States, Singapore and Thailand** completed the top five, reinforcing Malaysia's position as a preferred investment destination in ASEAN and the wider Asia-Pacific region.

Investment momentum remained broad-based, with **Selangor, Johor, W.P. Kuala Lumpur, Pulau**

Top Five Foreign Investors*

	RM (Bil)
Japan (Q1 2025 : RM1.6 Bil)	21.5
The People's Republic of China (Q1 2025 : RM7.9 Bil)	10.1
The United States of America (Q1 2025 : RM9.9 Bil)	10.1
Singapore (Q1 2025 : RM28.3 Bil)	6.7
Thailand (Q1 2025 : RM6.1 Mil)	2.5

Note*: Reporting of foreign investments is based on the ultimate source.

**Due to rounding, figures presented in this infographic may not add up precisely to the totals provided.*

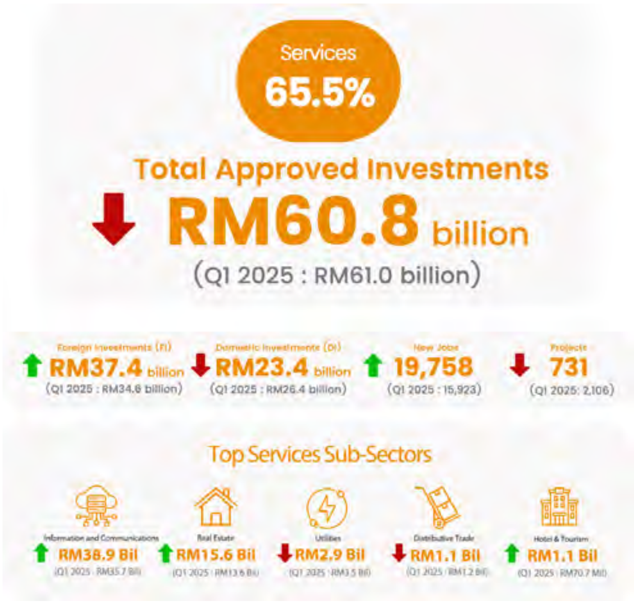
HIGHLIGHTS

Pinang and Sarawak recording the highest approved investments, highlighting the continued strength of Malaysia's key investment corridors.

Five Major States

	RM (Bil)	Manufacturing RM (Bil)	Services RM (Bil)	Primary RM (Bil)
Selangor (Q1 2025 : RM11.1 Bil)	33.5	4.8	28.8	-
Johor (Q1 2025 : RM30.7 Bil)	16.9	7.2	9.7	-
W.P. Kuala Lumpur (Q1 2025 : RM15.3 Bil)	16.9	0.1	16.8	-
Pulau Pinang (Q1 2025 : RM9.4 Bil)	6.2	4.9	1.3	-
Sarawak (Q1 2025 : RM1.2 Bil)	4.0	0.5	0.3	3.2

*Due to rounding, figures presented in this infographic may not add up precisely to the totals provided.



*Due to rounding, figures presented in this infographic may not add up precisely to the totals provided.

Services Sector Remained the Largest Investment

The services sector remained the largest contributor, recording **RM60.8 billion or 65.5%** of total approved investments.

The information and communications led the sector with **RM38.9 billion,** driven by continued demand for AI, cloud computing and digital transformation. Data centres and cloud computing alone accounted for **RM34.6 billion** across 33 projects, representing almost 89% of approvals within the subsector.

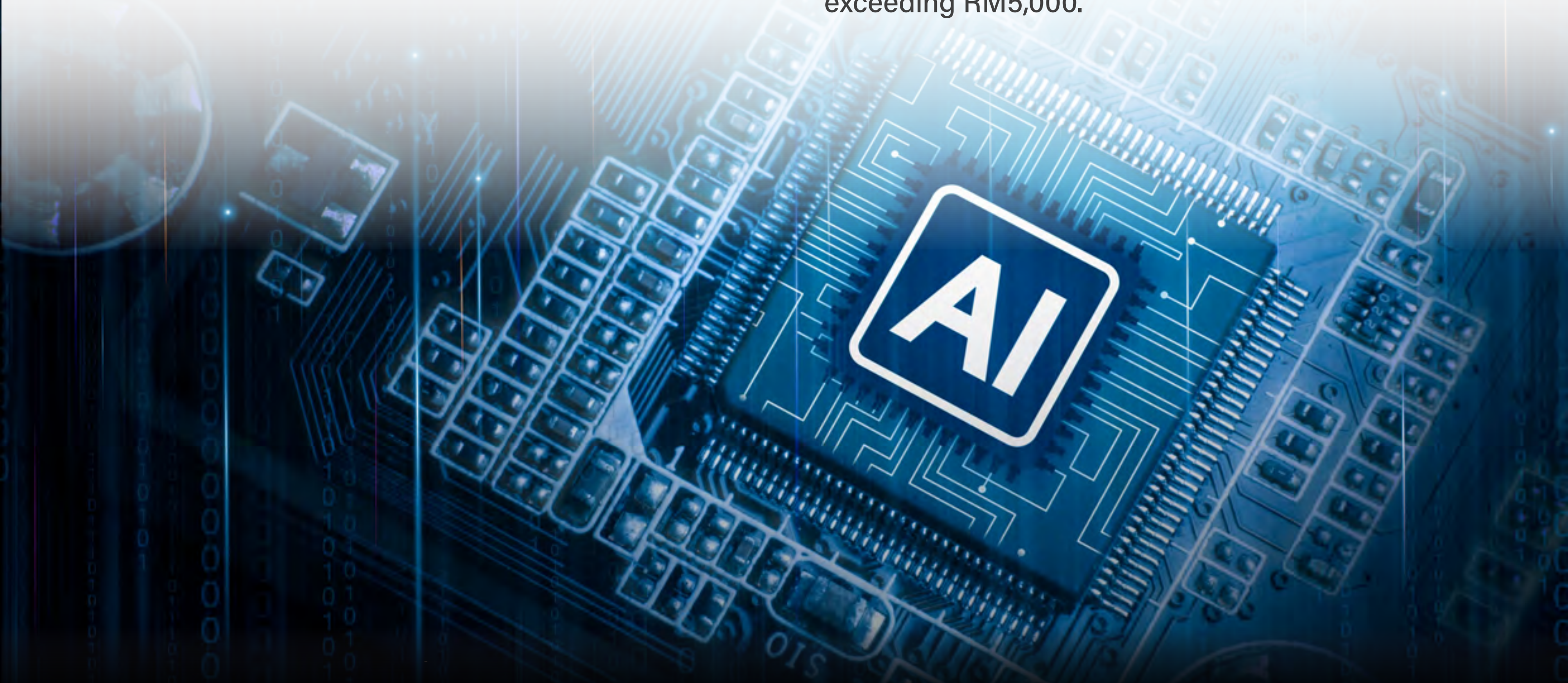
Malaysia's growing digital ecosystem, regional connectivity and investor confidence continue to support strong momentum in digital investments.

Manufacturing Advances Towards Higher-Value Activities

The manufacturing sector secured **RM24.1 billion across 501 projects,** reflecting sustained investor interest in advanced manufacturing and high-technology industries.

While the exceptionally high investment base in Q1 2025 resulted in a lower overall investment value, the number of approved projects increased significantly, indicating a broader pipeline of manufacturing investments.

The sector also continued to create higher-value employment, with a growing share of managerial, technical and supervisory (MTS) positions and more jobs offering monthly salaries exceeding RM5,000.



HIGHLIGHTS

Manufacturing investments continued to be driven by **electrical and electronics (E&E), chemicals and chemical products, machinery and equipment, food manufacturing, and transport equipment,** reinforcing Malaysia's position as a regional hub for advanced manufacturing and global supply chains.

Due to rounding, figures presented in this infographic may not add up precisely to the totals provided.

Primary Sector Rebounds Strongly

The primary sector attracted **RM7.9 billion** in approved investments, accounting for **8.5%** of total approvals.

The sector recorded a significant 418.2% year-on-year, driven mainly by offshore oil and gas exploration and development activities in Sarawak. The strong performance reflects renewed investor interest in Malaysia's upstream energy sector amid heightened global energy security concerns and continued efforts to diversify energy supply across the Asia-Pacific region.

Due to rounding, figures presented in this infographic may not add up precisely to the totals provided.

Strengthening Malaysia's Investment Ecosystem

Malaysia continues to strengthen its investment ecosystem through sustained growth in digital infrastructure, semiconductors, renewable energy and advanced manufacturing.

National initiatives such as the **New Industrial Master Plan (NIMP) 2030, the New Incentive Framework (NIF) and the #InvestLokal** initiative continue to support quality investments, ecosystem development and long-term value creation.

Strong Pipeline Supports Continued Investment Momentum

Malaysia's investment pipeline remains robust.

As at **5 May 2026,** MIDA was facilitating **182 potential projects** with proposed investments totalling RM38.3 billion.

A further **RM91.0 billion** in potential investment leads remains under active negotiation, reflecting sustained investor confidence in Malaysia's long-term prospects.

From Investment Approvals to Project Implementation

Malaysia continues to distinguish itself not only by attracting quality investments but also by successfully translating approvals into implementation.

Between **2021 and February 2026,** the National Committee on Investment (NCI) approved **5,148 manufacturing projects.** Of these, **85%** have progressed to various implementation stages, including production, factory construction and machinery installation.

Projects approved in 2025 have already achieved a 70.8% implementation rate, consistent with the typical 18- to 24-month investment development cycle.

Building Sustainable Growth Through Quality Investments

Malaysia's Q1 2026 investment performance demonstrates the country's continued ability to attract quality investments despite global uncertainty.

Supported by stronger domestic investment, sustained foreign investor confidence and strong momentum in high-value industries, Malaysia remains well positioned to strengthen its role as a leading investment destination in the region.

For more details, please visit **https://www.mida.gov.my/media-release/malaysia-attracts-rm92-8-billion-in-q1-2026-approved-investments-expected-to-create-over-50000-new-jobs-domestic-investments-up-13/**

Investing for Impact: Unlocking Value in Malaysia's New Incentive Framework

As Malaysia strengthens its position as a preferred investment destination, the New Incentive Framework (NIF) marks a significant shift towards attracting quality investments that generate long-term economic value, stronger industrial capabilities and better jobs.

A New Approach to Quality Investment

Malaysia's investment landscape is entering a new phase. Rapid technological advancement, evolving global tax rules, shifting geopolitical dynamics and the global transition towards sustainability are reshaping how countries compete for investments. To remain competitive, the Government has introduced the **NIF,** a modern incentive system designed to attract high-quality, high-impact investments.

The NIF represents a significant shift **from traditional** profit-based tax incentives to an **outcome-based incentive approach.** This newly reformed incentive is intended to deliver a true "win-win" for both the Malaysian economy and investors. For Malaysia, it fuels a high-value economic transformation centred on technology, innovation and deeper economic spillovers. For investors, the framework offers greater transparency and predictability through clearly defined assessment criteria linked to measurable outcomes. It also positions Malaysia to remain aligned with evolving international standards, including the OECD's Pillar II Global Minimum Tax.

Responding to a Changing Investment Landscape

Global investment priorities have evolved beyond cost competitiveness. Today, investors increasingly consider technological capability, supply chain resilience, skilled talent, sustainability and geopolitical stability when choosing investment locations.

The framework also supports industrial ambitions under the **National Investment Aspirations (NIA) and the New Industrial Master Plan (NIMP) 2030.**

The NIF came into effect on **1 March 2026** for the **manufacturing sector.** Under the NIF, investors may choose one of the **two mutually exclusive incentive options based on their investment profile:**

Special Tax Rate (STR)

- Designed for projects expected to generate high and earlier returns
    - 0% and 15% STR
    - Up to 15 years

‘What Investors Need to Know’ - NIF at a Glance
Effective from 1 March 2026

Two incentive options: STR or ITA	Open to new investments and eligible diversification projects	Outcome-based assessment using the NIA Scorecard	Focus on technology, quality jobs, sustainability and domestic linkages

Investment Tax Allowance (ITA)
- Designed for capital-intensive projects with longer investment horizons
  - 30% to 100% allowance on qualifying capital expenditure
  - Up to 10 years
  - Offset of 70% or 100% of statutory income

The initial phase of the NIF introduces these incentive options to encourage new investments.

Importantly, the NIF is not confined to new investors. Existing companies undertaking diversification activities, including investments for new product lines, may also be eligible for incentives.

Projects are assessed based on their potential contribution to Malaysia’s national development priorities. **These include economic complexity, high-value job creation, domestic supply chain linkages, industrial cluster development, inclusivity, and sustainability.** Projects with stronger commitments to advanced technology, innovation, talent development, domestic participation, and workforce enhancement may be eligible for higher-tier incentives.

MID Engages Industry on the New Incentive Framework

Following the launch of the NIF for the manufacturing sector, MIDA organised its inaugural strategic briefing, “Tax Reforms: Navigating the Outcome-Based Era - A Strategic Briefing on Malaysia’s New Incentive Framework (NIF)” on 19 May 2026. The event was officiated by Ms. Zalina Zainol, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Investment Promotion

The NIF covers fifteen (15) priority manufacturing industries as follows:

and Facilitation, who highlighted the importance of the NIF in supporting Malaysia's transition towards a transparent, predictable and performance-based incentive framework.

The briefing attracted nearly 80 participants, including industry players, investors, tax practitioners, financial professionals, academics and government agencies, providing stakeholders with greater clarity on the framework and its implementation.

Programme highlights included:

- **High-level Panel Discussion,** moderated by Mr. Zaim Zulkifli from PwC, featuring:
    - Dato' John Patrick Antonysamy, Under-Secretary, Tax Division, Ministry of Finance (MOF)
    - Ms. Masni Muhammad, Senior Executive Director, Investment Policy Advocacy, MIDA
    - Dr. Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid, Chief Economist, Bank Muamalat Malaysia Berhad
- **In-depth presentation on the NIF** by Mr. Nelson Samuel, Executive Director, Investment Policy Advocacy (Manufacturing), MIDA, providing participants with essential insights into the future of outcome-based investment and compliance in Malaysia.
- **NIF Consultative Session,** where 17 MIDA officers served as specialised consultants, delivering personalised one-on-one guidance to 24 participating companies.

A key takeaway from the session was the importance of early engagement and pre-application consultation. Investors were encouraged to assess their projects against the **NIA Scorecard** to better understand their eligibility and align their investment proposals with Malaysia's national development priorities.

The event also provided a valuable platform for **direct engagement between MIDA and the business community** through presentations, interactive discussions and one-on-one consultations. Participants gained practical guidance on eligibility requirements, assessment criteria, incentive options and the InvestMalaysia digital platform. Existing investors were assured that projects with previously approved incentives will continue under their original terms and conditions, reinforcing Malaysia's commitment to policy certainty and investor confidence.

The strong participation and active discussions reflected the industry's readiness to embrace Malaysia's new outcome-based incentive framework. The briefing marked an important milestone in helping investors understand the NIF and prepare for the next phase of Malaysia's industrial transformation.

For more information on the NIF, please visit **https://www.mida.gov.my/media-release/new-incentive-framework-nif/**

Emerging Trends Shaping the Future of Malaysia's Medical Device Industry: Unlocking New Investment Opportunities

The global medical device industry is undergoing a profound transformation. It is moving rapidly beyond standalone hardware into an era defined by **Artificial Intelligence (AI), digital health, automation, and hyper-connected healthcare ecosystems.**

For forward-thinking investors and industry players, this evolution is reshaping the MedTech value chain. At the heart of transformation, Malaysia is strengthening its position as one of ASEAN's leading manufacturing hubs, transitioning from a traditional 'Build-to-Print' manufacturer towards becoming a high-value, 'Build-to-Design' regional hub for next-generation medical technologies.

AI and Digital Health Technologies

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is no longer an emerging concept; it is becoming the modern clinician's co-pilot. Today, **AI-powered solutions** are increasingly integrated into:

- **medical imaging,**
- **predictive analytics,**
- **automated manufacturing quality systems,**
- **clinical decision support, and**
- **operational management**

These technologies help improve diagnostic accuracy, accelerate clinical decision-making, enhance operational efficiency, improve product quality and reduce production defects.

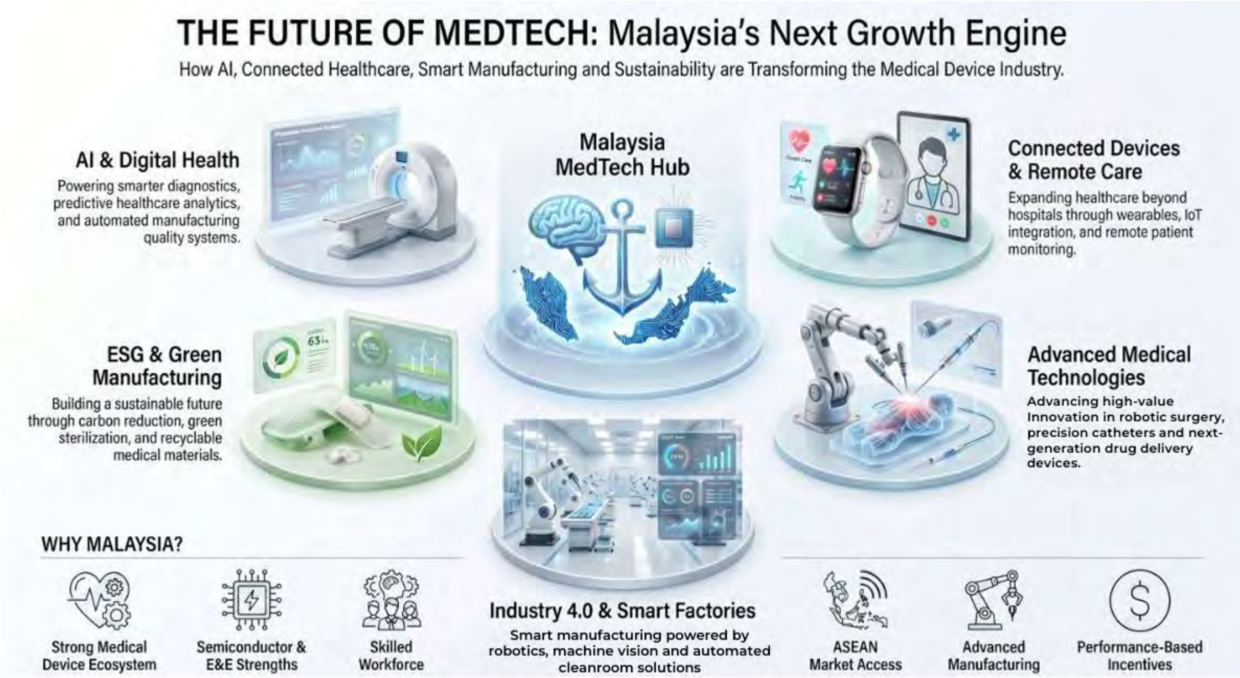
Crucially, the rapid expansion of **AI data centres** in Malaysia is creating strong synergies between the electrical & electronics (E&E) and medical devices industries. This convergence opens new opportunities for Malaysian innovators in:

- **AI software development and healthcare analytics;**
- **AI-enabled diagnostics tools;**
- **Automated inspection systems; and**
- **Advanced wearables technologies that monitor vital signs in real time.**

The Rise of Connected Medical Devices and Remote Healthcare

Healthcare is rapidly shifting beyond hospitals through **connected healthcare and remote patient monitoring solutions.** Driven by global efforts to reduce hospital congestion and improve patient accessibility, demand for consumer healthcare electronics continues to grow.

The market is seeing strong demand for continuous glucose monitoring, cardiac tracking and respiratory care. This trend creates significant opportunities for Malaysian companies to develop end-to-end solutions in **embedded systems, sensor technologies, Internet-of-Things (IoT) integration, cloud -based healthcare systems, and mobile healthcare applications.**



Advancing into High-Value Medical Technologies

The global healthcare industry is increasingly moving towards **minimally invasive procedures and advanced medical technologies.** Growing demand for ultra-precise medical devices is driven by patients seeking faster recovery and health care providers aiming for shorter hospital stays.

This presents opportunities in smart surgical devices, precision catheters, advanced implants, robotic-assisted surgical systems, and next-generation drug delivery devices. Malaysia's long-standing strengths in precision machining, advanced materials and manufacturing position local companies to produce medical-grade components and surgical subcomponents and offer high-value medical hardware.

Industry 4.0 & Smart Cleanrooms

As global regulatory requirements for safety and traceability become more stringent, manual manufacturing is steadily giving way to **highly automated and precision-driven production environments.**

Medical device manufacturers are following suit by adopting:

- robotics and automation;
- AI-driven inspection systems;
- machine vision technologies;
- predictive maintenance;
- digital manufacturing systems; and
- smart cleanroom solutions.

Malaysia's strengths in **industrial automation and precision engineering** provide a solid foundation for local companies to support the growing demand for advanced manufacturing technologies within the medical device sector and smart factory solutions.

The ESG Imperative: Green Medical Manufacturing

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) considerations are becoming increasingly important across the global medical device industry. Multinational corporations (MNCs) are placing greater emphasis on:

- sustainable manufacturing practices;
- carbon reduction initiatives; and
- environmentally friendly supply chains.

Emerging focus areas include:

- sustainable packaging;
- recyclable materials;
- energy-efficient manufacturing;
- waste reduction technologies; and
- green sterilisation solutions.

For investors and manufacturers, sustainability is no longer merely a compliance requirement - it has become a key competitive advantage. Malaysia's commitment to sustainable industrial development provides opportunities for companies to integrate ESG principles while supporting long-term business growth.

Malaysia's Value Proposition for Investors

As global MedTech companies seek resilient and innovation-driven investment destinations, Malaysia offers:

- a well-established medical device manufacturing ecosystem;
- strong E&E and semiconductor capabilities;
- a skilled and multilingual workforce;
- robust automation and precision engineering capabilities;
- excellent regional and global connectivity; and
- a conducive investment environment supported by proactive government facilitation and industry-focused incentives.

These strengths have enabled Malaysia to become one of the world's leading exporters of medical devices and an attractive destination for multinational companies seeking manufacturing, regional hub, and technology development opportunities.

Malaysia's integrated ecosystem - supported by capabilities in **electronics, semiconductors, precision engineering, and automation** also provides local companies with strong opportunities to participate in the next phase of global MedTech growth.

Driving Complexity: The New Incentive Framework (NIF)

The government's **New Incentive Framework (NIF)** is accelerating Malaysia's transition towards a more value-driven economy. The framework shifts from traditional tax incentives to a tiered, outcome-based approach, rewarding companies that drive **economic complexity, intensify local R&D, accelerate technology adoption, deepen domestic supply chain integration, and strengthen ESG adoption.**

Secure Your Place in the Future of MedTech

The future of the **medical device industry** will be shaped by **digitalisation, automation, connected healthcare, and advanced technologies.** As the healthcare sector continues to evolve, Malaysia offers a competitive environment for companies looking to establish, expand, or diversify their MedTech operations. Supported by a strong industrial ecosystem, skilled talent pool, robust infrastructure, and proactive government facilitation, Malaysia is well-positioned to strengthen its standing as a leading MedTech hub in ASEAN and a preferred destination for high-value healthcare technology investments.

For more information, please contact the **Life Sciences & Medical Technology Division of MIDA at https://www.mida.gov.my/staff directory/life-sciences-medical-technology-division/ for further assistance.**

Powering the Digital Gold Rush: RE and BESS as the Strategic Backbone of Malaysia's Digital Economy

Malaysia's digital economy is entering a new phase of growth. Driven by a rapid adoption of artificial intelligence (AI), cloud computing and advanced digital services, the country is emerging as one of Southeast Asia's most attractive destinations for digital infrastructure investments.

As AI workloads continue to grow and digital infrastructure scales at unprecedented speed, the challenge is no longer simply attracting investment, but ensuring that growth is supported by reliable, sustainable and future-ready energy systems. In this evolving landscape, Renewable Energy (RE) and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) are becoming critical enablers of Malaysia's digital economy, by supporting rising electricity demand while strengthening energy security, grid stability, and sustainability.

This critical intersection was the focus of the high-level industry panel, **"RE + BESS as the Backbone of Malaysia's Digital Economy,"** held during ENERtec Asia 2026, where MIDA served as the Strategic Partner. Moderated by Ir. Dr. Ng Kok Chiang, Vice President of The Electrical and Electronics Association of Malaysia (TEEAM), the discussion brought together policymakers, global technology leaders, engineering firms and industrial players to discuss how Malaysia can build a resilient energy ecosystem to support digital growth.

The Scale of the Digital Surge: A Massive Energy Demand

From 2021 to Q12026, Malaysia approved RM464.6 billion in digital investments. A significant 66.7% (RM309.8 billion) was channelled into data centres and cloud infrastructure, highlighting the rapid expansion of Malaysia's digital infrastructure. These investments are generating opportunities beyond the digital sector by driving demand for renewable energy, advanced engineering services, battery technologies, skilled technical talent and local supplier capabilities. This creates multiplier effects across the wider economy.

Because data centres operate around the clock, their rapid expansion is significantly increasing national electricity demand. Meeting this demand will require a balanced energy mix supported by renewable energy and energy storage solutions.

Hyperscalers such as Microsoft, Google, and AWS are also accelerating their transition towards 24/7 Carbon-Free Energy (CFE), requiring their operations to be matched by carbon-free electricity throughout the year.

MIDA's Strategic Role: Aligning Policy with Infrastructure

Representing the nation's promotion agency, **MIDA** highlighted how government policies are being aligned to support digital investments through localised RE and BESS infrastructure.

MIDA assumes a strategic role in ensuring that digital infrastructure growth is matched by ecosystem readiness through policy alignment, investment facilitation and industry collaborations.

Under national frameworks such as the New Industrial Master Plan (NIMP) 2030, the National Energy Transition Roadmap (NETR), and the New Incentive Framework (NIF), MIDA supports investments that accelerate renewable energy deployment, energy storage adoption, and industrial decarbonisation. Among available incentives are **Green Investment Tax Allowance (GITA) and Green Income Tax Exemption (GITE),** which help de-risk large-scale renewable energy and energy storage investments while encouraging greater private sector participation.

MIDA is also facilitating collaboration between global technology leaders and Malaysian companies to accelerate technology transfer and strengthen domestic supply chain capabilities.

Solaroo and Local EPCCs: Bridging the Intermittency Gap

While government policies provide the framework, local Engineering, Procurement, Construction, and Commissioning (EPCC) companies assume a critical role in delivering reliable energy infrastructure. **Mr. See Heng Chun, Director of New Energy and Technology Innovation at Solaroo RE Sdn. Bhd.,** shared how smart BESS integration helps address solar intermittency for AI infrastructure and stabilises renewable energy generation.

For engineering companies, the focus has evolved beyond installing photovoltaic (PV) systems to integrating lithium and hybrid storage technologies that deliver stable and constant power.

AI-driven Energy Management Systems (EMS) are also enabling predictive battery charging and discharging using weather forecasting and real-time grid data.

Foreign Technology Leaders: Advancing Battery Innovation

Mr. Robin Li, Chief Technology Officer of Leoch Battery, shared insights into the rapid advances taking place in battery cell technology.

As data centres increasingly require gigawatt-scale energy storage, technologies such as Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP) batteries and emerging sodium-ion batteries are making BESS safer, more durable, and more cost-effective. Partnerships between global manufacturers and Malaysian EPCC companies also enable faster deployment of world-class, utility-scale storage solutions.

Looking Ahead: Talent and Collaboration

As Malaysia strengthens its position as a regional digital hub, attention is shifting beyond investments to building the ecosystem needed to sustain long-term growth. To support the country's **RM309.8 billion** in approved data

centres and cloud infrastructure investments, Malaysia must continue to accelerate talent development, expand its pool of certified professionals and strengthen capabilities in designing, deploying, and managing large-scale BESS installations.

Through proactive facilitation by MIDA, innovation by local companies such as Solaroo, and technological advances from global partners such as Leoch Battery, Malaysia is strengthening the foundations needed to support sustainable digital growth. Rather than simply accommodating regional digital expansion, Malaysia is positioning itself as a regional leader in sustainable, resilient, and future-ready digital infrastructure.

For further information on investment opportunities in renewable energy, battery energy storage systems (BESS), and Malaysia's digital infrastructure ecosystem, please contact **MIDA's Green Technology Division at https://www.mida.gov.my/staffdirectory/green-technology-division/ or the Business Services and Regional Operations Division at https://www.mida.gov.my/staffdirectory/business-services-and-regional-operations-division/**

Sydney Cake House: Baking a Global Legacy Through Smart Manufacturing and Green Innovation

From Humble Beginnings to a Global Halal Bakery Leader

Founded in 1982 by Madam Jenny Chuang, Sydney Cake House (SCH) began as a single neighbourhood bakery. Over more than four decades, the company has grown into one of Malaysia's leading frozen Halal bakery manufacturers. Today, renowned brands including 'mak'cik', S. Signature and Aunty's Kitchen serve customers across the retail, food service, hospitality, aviation, and quick-service restaurants (QSR).

A Campus Built for Global Competitiveness

To meet growing international demand, SCH invested RM100 million in a state-of-the-art manufacturing campus at the Selangor Halal Hub, Pulau Indah. Spanning 350,000 square feet, this campus serves as the company's manufacturing hub, housing an R&D Innovation Centre and advanced cold-chain logistics infrastructure.

SCH also employs more than 300 people, fostering a strong **"mak'cik family culture"** that **champions inclusivity, female leadership** and employee empowerment.

Going Global: Through "Thaw-and-Serve" Innovation

SCH's expansion into Pulau Indah was driven by a simple, objective - bringing freshly baked quality to customers around the world. Its strategic location provides direct access to Wesports, enabling significant international shipping. Recognising the limitations of traditional fresh bakery shelf life, SCH pioneered innovative "thaw-and-serve" frozen technology, allowing the company to expand globally without compromising product quality.

Today, SCH exports Halal-certified products to more than 20 countries, including the United Kingdom, France, China, Japan, and the United Arab Emirates. This has positioned Malaysia as a premium player within the global Halal food supply chain.

Built on Quality, Governance and Trust

To protect its international reputation, SCH maintains rigorous global certifications and governance standards. Its operations are supported by internationally recognised certifications, including HALAL, HACCP, ISO 22000, FSSC 22000, AVA accreditation, and SMETA/Sedex compliance. The company also maintains a Grade A occupational safety rating from the Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH), reflecting its commitment to employee welfare and workplace safety.

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Pioneering the "Digital Green Factory"

SCH's most noteworthy achievement is its successful evolution into a "Digital Green Factory," seamlessly decoupling revenue growth from labour dependency by intertwining Industry 4.0 (IR4.0) with robust Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices.

The production floor features IoT-enabled Smart Cookers, AI-powered quality control systems, and a Digital Twin infrastructure that maps warehouse and utility flows in real time. Environmentally, SCH is a trailblazer. As early as 2013, the company became the first Malaysian SME to harvest waste heat from cold room compressors to generate hot water, saving thousands of ringgit in energy costs monthly. The facility is also powered by a 446.6 kWp on-site solar photovoltaic system and operates a circular waste economy that strives to ensure zero production waste is send to landfills.

These initiatives have earned SCH prestigious accolades, including the Malaysia Smart Manufacturing Award (MSMA) Gold Winner title and the AmBank BizRACE Season 4 Championship.

Accelerating Growth with MIDA's Support

SCH's transformation into high-tech, sustainable manufacturing has been supported by MIDA's facilitation and incentive programmes.

Through the **Smart Automation Grant (PENJANA),** MIDA supported SCH's Smart Automate Pie Making Production Line, significantly improving manufacturing precision and production capacity.

SCH also received support under MIDA's **Domestic Investment Accelerator Fund (DIAF) for ESG Adoption,** enabling the company to complete its inaugural ISO 14064-1 greenhouse gas inventory, strengthen ESG reporting capabilities and establish a measurable foundation for future global compliance.

Advice for Aspiring Industry Players

Looking back on SCH's journey, Madam Jenny Chuang encourages companies to embrace **sustainability and digitalisation as core business strategies, not just compliance requirements.**

For more information on DIAF-ESG, please visit www.mida.gov.my

"To thrive in the global market, companies must be willing to 'unlearn and relearn'. Integrating smart automation with green practices is no longer optional. We encourage homegrown businesses to leverage the invaluable guidance and facilitation programmes offered by MIDA. With the right support, innovation, and a commitment to ESG, Malaysian companies can confidently move up the value chain and excel on the world stage."

Madam Jenny
Managing Director
Sydney Cake House

Driving Sustainable Growth and International Collaboration through the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone

As global industries accelerate supply chain diversification and the transition towards low-carbon and technology-driven operations, regions that can combine industrial depth, sustainability and cross-border connectivity are increasingly becoming preferred investment destinations. The Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone (JS-SEZ) represents one such example.

Anchored by complementary strengths of Johor and Singapore, the JS-SEZ is evolving into an integrated economic platform that supports advanced manufacturing, innovation-led industries, and sustainable growth. Within this ecosystem, Iskandar Malaysia continues to play an important role in strengthening industrial capabilities, fostering international partnerships and enhancing the region's long-term investment competitiveness.

Two recent milestones highlight this commitment: the Iskandar Malaysia CEO Roundtable on Green Manufacturing and Circular Economy and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA) and the Taoyuan City Government of Taiwan. Together, these initiatives reinforce a shared vision of positioning Iskandar Malaysia as a future-ready hub for sustainable industry, innovation and cross-border collaboration.

Advancing Green Manufacturing and Circular Economy

Held on 11 May 2026, as part of Iskandar Malaysia's 20th anniversary celebrations, the CEO Roundtable brought together industry leaders, sustainability practitioners, and policymakers from Malaysia and Singapore. Jointly organised by IRDA, the UN Global Compact Network Malaysia & Brunei (UNGCMYB), and the UN Global Compact Network Singapore, the discussion focused on strengthening industrial competitiveness within the JS-SEZ.

Discussion focused on the increasing need for businesses to adapt to evolving global sustainability requirements, including Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) expectations, the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), and the growing demand for low-carbon manufacturing practices. Participants also identified opportunities to strengthen industrial sustainability readiness through closer cross-border collaboration, particularly in sectors such as advanced manufacturing, logistics, electronics, energy and the circular economy.

The key priorities identified include enhancing industrial material recovery and recycling capabilities, supporting the reuse of materials such as copper, iron, rubber and electronic waste components, and developing resilient, resource-efficient supply chains.

The discussions also highlighted the growing importance of strengthening recycling infrastructure, leveraging digital technologies and artificial intelligence (AI), improving operational efficiency, and accelerating industrial decarbonisation.

Collectively, these discussions reinforced the strategic value of the JS-SEZ as an integrated cross-border platform that combines Johor's industrial strengths and renewable energy potential with Singapore's technology ecosystem, innovation capabilities, and access to capital.

Strengthening Partnerships with Taoyuan

Complementing efforts, IRDA formalised a strategic partnership with the Taoyuan City Government through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 15 June 2026.

The MoU aims to strengthen collaboration in investment facilitation, business engagement, industrial and technology development, talent development, capacity building, institutional partnerships and economic competititveness. The MoU was signed by Yang Berhormat Dato' Haji Mohd Noorazam Dato' Haji Osman, the Johor State Financial Officer and Chief Executive of IRDA, and Mr. Chang San-Cheng, Mayor of Taoyuan City Government.

Taoyuan is recognised as Taiwan's leading industrial and technology hub, supported by strong ecosystems in advanced manufacturing, logistics and innovation-driven industries. Together with Iskandar Malaysia's growing industrial base, the partnership creates new opportunities for collaboration in advanced manufacturing, digital technologies, artificial intelligence, talent development, research collaboration, and Technical, and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

Building a Future-Ready Investment Ecosystem

Beyond institutional cooperation, these initiatives demonstrate how strategic international partnerships can strengthen industrial resilience, innovation and long-term growth. By connecting complementary ecosystems across government, industry and academia, Iskandar Malaysia is translating the ambitions of the JS-SEZ into practical ecosystem development.

Through green manufacturing, stronger international partnerships and deeper cross-border collaboration, Iskandar Malaysia continues to reinforce its position as a future-ready gateway for high-value investments and innovation-driven growth in ASEAN.

Businesses interested in exploring opportunities within Iskandar Malaysia and the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone, may engage with IRDA to better understand the region's investment ecosystem, strategic initiatives, and facilitation support available for sustainable and high-value investments. For more information, please visit the **IRDA website at www.irda.com.my.**

Disclaimer: All figures in this article are under the purview of IRDA and are for informational purposes only. For specific details regarding investments and initiatives, please refer to official IRDA communications.

Strengthening China-Malaysia Investment Collaboration Through The Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone (JS-SEZ)

MIDA Shanghai & MIDA Johor

Global manufacturers are increasingly seeking resilient, well-connected locations that can support long-term growth in Southeast Asia. Building on the growing momentum of the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone (JS-SEZ), **MIDA Shanghai and MIDA Johor** joined the Johor State Government on a high-level investment mission to China to strengthen engagement with investors and promote Johor as a strategic gateway for regional expansion. The mission brought together investment promotion agencies, state stakeholders, and industry players in a coordinated effort to showcase investment opportunities within the JS-SEZ ecosystem.

Strengthening Investor Confidence through Strategic Engagement

Led by The Right Honourable Dato' Onn Hafiz Ghazi, Chief Minister of Johor, the delegation comprised representatives from Invest Johor, Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA), Johor Talent Development Council (JTDC), Johor Corporation (JCorp), as well as infrastructure providers, utility companies, and leading private-sector developers.

Supported by MIDA Shanghai, the mission featured focused engagements with Chinese businesses, investors and financial institutions to showcase the opportunities available within the JS-SEZ ecosystem.

Five investment roundtable sessions, organised in collaboration with major financial institutions including CCB, UOB, OCBC, ICBC and AmBank, attracted **more than 150 participants.** Discussions focused on the **JS-SEZ investment framework, industrial ecosystem, development, facilitation mechanisms and long-term growth opportunities** for companies seeking to establish or expand their presence in Southeast Asia.

The mission also featured targeted **one-to-one business meetings** with high-value prospects, enabling more in-depth discussion on investment opportunities and project requirements. These engagements also provided an opportunity to better understand investor requirements and offer tailored facilitation to support potential projects.

The Chief Minister also met with key industry players, including **GSP Automotive Group, to discuss their expansion plans in Johor,** reinforcing the state's commitments to supporting strategic investors through direct engagement.

Strengthening Ecosystems through Existing Investors

A key feature of the mission was the participation of existing investors already operating in Johor. Companies including **Singda Superalloy (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd. and SICC Group** hosted dedicated business sessions with their downstream customers, encouraging complementary investments within the JS-SEZ ecosystem.

From Investment Promotion to Investment Implementation

Beyond attracting new investments, the mission also reinforced Malaysia's strong emphasis on project implementation and investor facilitation.

Senior representatives held focused discussions with prospective investors, while following up on engagements from MIDA's previous investment mission to China in late 2025. The discussions covered potential investments across several high-value manufacturing sectors, reflecting continued investor interest in Malaysia's industrial ecosystem.

The delegation also exchanged views on key considerations to support the timely implementation of prospective investment projects.

These discussions reaffirmed Malaysia's commitment to supporting investors throughout the investment lifecycle—from initial engagement to project implementation.

Supporting Talent Development for High-Value Industries

Talent development remains a key enabler in supporting high-value investments.

A notable example highlighted during the mission was **Singda's initiative to train Malaysian technical personnel at its parent company's facilities in China before being deployed to Johor.** Such initiatives reflect the importance of knowledge transfer and skills development in supporting the long term growth of Malaysia's high-technology and innovation-driven industries.

Advancing the Momentum of the JS-SEZ

The JS-SEZ continues to progress from planning into implementation, under its Masterplan and Investment Blueprint. Investor confidence remains strong, with Johor recording RM126.9 billion in approved investments between 2025 and the first quarter of 2026, underscoring its position as one of Malaysia's top-performing investment destinations.

The mission reflects the strong collaboration between MIDA and the Johor state government in promoting JS-SEZ to international investors. As investor interest continues to grow, such strategic engagement will play an important role in translating opportunities into quality investments that support Johor's and Malaysia's long term economic growth.

KISMEC: Empowering Future-Ready Talent

Shaping Malaysia's Future-Ready Workforce

As global industries accelerate their transition towards advanced manufacturing, digitalisation, and artificial intelligence (AI), access to skilled talent has become a key determinant of investment decisions. Beyond infrastructure and incentives, investors increasingly seek locations with sustainable pipeline of industry-ready talent capable of supporting technological transformation and long-term business growth.

Malaysia's commitment to strengthening Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) has made TVET a critical component of the country's industrial competitiveness. Institutions such as the **Kedah Industrial Skills and Management Development Centre (KISMEC)** exemplify this approach by developing highly skilled, future-ready talent aligned with evolving

Established in 1993, KISMEC is a leading technical training institution in Malaysia dedicated to developing a highly skilled and industry-ready workforce. For over three decades, KISMEC has played an important role in strengthening Malaysia's talent ecosystem through industry-driven TVET programmes.

Today, KISMEC operates from three strategic locations: KISMEC Sungai Petani, KISMEC Kulim, and KISMEC Oil & Gas Centre in Sungai Petani. Through these centres, KISMEC continues to support workforce development and provide technical training aligned with current industry requirements.

Building Confidence Through Industry Recognition

In line with Malaysia's New Industrial Master Plan (NIMP) 2030, KISMEC continuously enhances its training programmes to meet the evolving needs of modern industries, particularly in electrical and electronics (E&E), manufacturing, engineering, automation, AI, and Industry 4.0 (IR4.0).

This industry-driven approach ensures programmes remain practical and responsive to technological advances and workforce demands. It also supports Malaysia's aspiration to strengthen its position as a hub for high-value manufacturing and technology-intensive investments, where institutions like KISMEC play an important role in ensuring access to a skilled workforce for increasingly sophisticated operations.

KISMEC is recognised for its strong focus on E&E and advanced manufacturing technologies. In 2018, it became the **first certified Industry 4.0 training provider in Malaysia, recognised by Bosch Rexroth,** strengthening its capabilities in smart manufacturing and industrial automation.

It is also the **sole training partner in Malaysia for Mitsubishi Electric Factory Automation Products and Solutions Training,** further reinforcing its role in advanced industrial technology development.

These globally recognised partnerships strengthen Malaysia's ability to develop talent aligned with international industrial standards, giving investors confidence in the country's readiness for Industry 4.0 adoption.

Industry-Driven Training Ecosystem - The Core & Impact of KISMEC

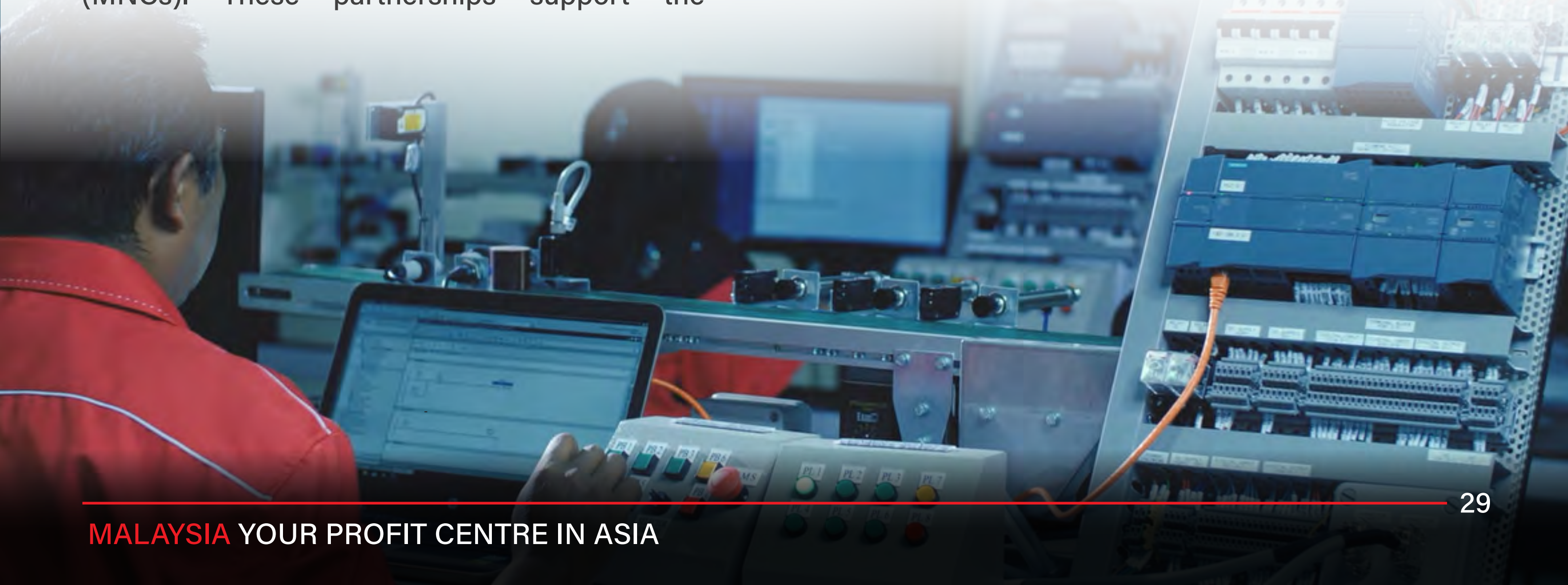
KISMEC's training approach combines theoretical learning with hands-on industrial application. Trainees are exposed to practical learning environments that mirror real workplace settings and current industrial practices. The institution offers specialised training programmes in areas such as AI, mechatronics, electrical and electronics, CNC machining, robotics, automation systems, and digital manufacturing technologies.

Beyond technical competencies, KISMEC places strong emphasis on employability skills, communication, teamwork, workplace ethics, and safety practices, ensuring trainees are well-rounded and industry-ready.

Collaboration remains a key pillar of KISMEC's ecosystem. As an industry-member-based organisation, KISMEC has secured the support of more than 50-member companies, including small and medium enterprises (SMEs), large local companies, and multinational corporations (MNCs). These partnerships support the co-development of training modules, industrial attachments, and upskilling initiatives aligned closely with industry requirements.

KISMEC also collaborates with government agencies, educational institutions, and international organisations, strengthening workforce development at both national and regional levels. In 2021, KISMEC collaborated with the **British High Commission and the International Labour Organisation (ILO)** under the Skills for Prosperity Programme in Kedah, aimed at strengthening technical and vocational skills development while enhancing industry readiness among local talent.

Another international milestone includes collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat via initiatives funded by the **Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF).** Through this partnership, KISMEC successfully implemented a Train-the-Trainer programme involving participants from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam (CLMV countries), contributing to regional knowledge sharing and capacity building in the TVET sector.



Building on these collaborations, KISMEC is seeking to expand its regional initiatives through a proposed programme under the **Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI)** through the ASEAN Secretariat, which is expected to expand participation to include Timor-Leste.

As of 2025, KISMEC has trained approximately 30,000 industry workers, 6,800 school leavers, and 6,600 graduates, contributing significantly to Malaysia's workforce development and industrial talent pipeline.

Bridging Talent and Investment Needs

Talent development has become increasingly important in investment decisions, particularly in high-value and technology-driven industries.
Through its industry-led model and close collaboration with employers, KISMEC supports Malaysia's efforts to strengthen talent readiness and enhance investment attractiveness.

Continuous investment in industry-relevant skills strengthens investor confidence in Malaysia's ability to provide a future-ready workforce.

This reflects Malaysia's broader approach, where industry, training institutions, and ecosystem stakeholders work together to ensure investment growth is supported by a sustainable talent pipeline.

As industries continue to evolve and investment requirements become increasingly sophisticated, KISMEC remains committed to developing future-ready talent through industry-focused training, strategic collaboration and continuous innovation. In doing so, it continues to strengthen Malaysia's talent ecosystem and reinforce the country's competitiveness as a destination for high-value investments.

Strengthening Local Suppliers for Global Manufacturing Supply Chains

As Malaysia advances its industrial transformation agenda, strengthening the capabilities of local suppliers and SMEs remains essential for building resilient domestic supply chains and increasing their participation in global manufacturing networks. In support of this effort, MIDA, in collaboration with Daikin Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. and the Selangor Human Resource Development Centre (SHRDC), organised the MIDA–Daikin Supply Chain Programme (Awareness Session) in Shah Alam, Selangor.

The programme brought together over 100 participants, including local SMEs, Daikin's ecosystem partners, financial institutions and government agencies. Through expert presentations and knowledge-sharing sessions, participants gained practical insights into supplier requirements, smart manufacturing, digital transformation, sustainable supply chain practices and financing solutions to support business growth and capability upgrading.

The initiative also highlighted the importance of talent development and industry collaboration in accelerating industrial transformation. Participants toured SHRDC's facilities, gaining first-hand exposure to automation, digitalisation and Industry 4.0 applications that help enhance operational efficiency and competitiveness.

The programme reflects MIDA's continued commitment to strengthening a stronger domestic industrial ecosystem by connecting Malaysian companies with multinational corporations and enabling greater participation in high-value industries. Through initiatives such as the Supply Chain Programme, Grow Local, the Enterprise Growth Platform (EGP) and the #InvestLokal campaign, MIDA continues to strengthen local capabilities in support of the New Industrial master Plan 2030.

MIDA and ENERtec Asia Advance Clean Energy Solutions for Malaysia's Digital Economy

ENERtec Asia 2026 provided an important platform for MIDA to engage industry players, promote investment opportunities and strengthen collaboration across Malaysia's renewable energy and battery energy storage system (BESS) ecosystem.

Held under the theme "Energy & AI: The Synergy for Energy Transition," the event brought together policymakers, investors, technology providers and industry leaders to exchange perspectives on the future of clean energy, energy storage, and industrial decarbonisation, while exploring opportunities for greater industry collaboration.

Discussions also explored emerging investment opportunities across renewable energy, battery storage systems, and supporting technologies, as well as the importance of closer collaboration between government and industry to accelerate project implementation.

The event reinforces ENERtec Asia's role as an important platform for connecting investors, technology providers and policymakers while showcasing Malaysia's growing capabilities in clean energy and energy storage solutions.

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About MIDA

MIDA is the Government's principal investment promotion and development agency under the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI) to oversee and drive investments into the manufacturing and services sectors in Malaysia. Starting operations in 1967 with a relatively small set up of 37 staff, MIDA has grown to become a strong and dynamic organisation of over 700 employees. Headquartered in Kuala Lumpur Sentral, MIDA today has 12 regional and 21 overseas offices. MIDA continues to be the strategic partner to businesses in seizing the opportunities arising from the technology revolution of this era. For more information, please visit www.mida.gov.my and follow us on X, Instagram and Facebook, LinkedIn, TikTok and YouTube channel.

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