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Measat-3a successfully launched at Cosmodrome

More than 50 Malaysians gathered to watch the launch of Measat-3a by a 60m Russian-made rocket at the Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. The 2,417kg satellite, with a 15-year lifespan and costing RM600 million, is manufactured by Orbital Sciences Corporation, United States. The group, which included several students who were on an all-expense paid trip to observe the launch and the Russian space industry, was led by Information, Communications and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim. Watching a rocket launch live for the first time, he said, "This has expended Malaysia's technological leap into the future as a successful nation. The challenge now is whether young Malaysians can one day create their own rockets to send into space." Dr Rais added that the Government would also jointly develop a training programme for students interested in outer space advancements with the private sector. Rohana Rozhan, chief executive officer of Astro TV, said that the new satellite would be a backup for Measat-3 as well as enable the company to introduce more products and services.

Salcon aims to secure 30% of RM1.5 billion total bid

Water and wastewater specialist Salcon Engineering Bhd is currently bidding for RM1.5 billion worth of projects in Malaysia as well as Sri Lanka, India, China and Indonesia, and hopes to secure between 20% and 30% of its total bid. The company's order book currently stands at RM1.1 billion from construction projects in Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. Salcon Engineering is also setting up a subsidiary office in India to support its tendering and operations. The company's capital expenditure for this year, which would be between RM100 million and RM150 million, is due to three ongoing concession projects in China, namely, a water treatment and a raw water transfer plant in Changle County, Shandong Province, with concession periods of 50 years and 30 years respectively, as well as a raw water supply project in Nan'an City, Fujian Province, for a concession period of 30 years. How See Hock, its chief executive officer and director, said, "These projects are expected to have a significant contribution to our earnings in 2011."

Time Engineering aims for 15% growth for next three years

From 2009 till 2011, Time Engineering Bhd expects to achieve an average revenue growth of 15% and minimum earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation margin of 15%. The 15% revenue growth for this year would translate to about RM177 million. For the first quarter ended March 31, Time Engineering posted a net profit of RM6.89 million. Its Chairman Datuk Mohd Khalil Mohd Noor said, "Since Time Engineering's PN17 status last year, we have put much effort to solve the company's outstanding term loan with Bank Pembangunan Malaysia Bhd. The company has restructured and converted its debt to a seven-year RM342 million redeemable secured loans stocks at a coupon rate of 2% to 3% per annum maturing on Dec 31, 2015." He added, "This year we will focus on growing our existing business by expanding and improving our services to our customers mainly in information technology infrastructure services here and abroad." The company would also seek to expand its services from trade facilitation to other industries for its e-commerce business.

Flood mitigation project in Kajang to start soon

Floods in Kajang town would be resolved by 2010 when the flood mitigation project from Taman Sungai Jelok to the Mara Arcade is completed. Work on the third phase of the project, which involves raising the bridge near the Kajang Market by 1.2m to prevent flash floods in the area, is expected to start soon and will be completed within three to four months. To prevent water from spilling into the market and its neighbouring areas including several rows of shophouses, Hulu Langat district engineer Mohd Nazri Yasmin said a flood wall measuring 1.2m will be built. He added, "The length of the entire project from Taman Sungai Jelok to the Mara Arcade is 1.8km and the cost involved is RM8.7 million with funding from the Selangor government." According to Kajang assemblyman Y. B. Lee Kim Sin, work on the bridge near the market will start as soon as the coffeeshop owners on either side were given sufficient notice to temporarily cease operating their businesses.