

## Gemas-Johor Bahru Double Tracking Project to Launch in 2011

Once negotiations for the final portion of the North-South double-track railway project is completed, the RM7 billion Gemas-Johor Bahru double tracking project is expected to kick off sometime this year. Transport Minister Datuk Seri Kong Cho Ha stated that the government had appointed two consultants for the 197km project and was currently negotiating with a railway consortium from China to undertake the project. However, he did not identify the Chinese consortium despite talk that the Malaysian Government is negotiating with China's state consortium China Railway Engineering Corporation and China Railway Telecommunication Centre (CRET) for the project. An MMC Corp Bhd-Gamuda Bhd joint venture was given the stretch from Ipoh to Padang Besar for RM12.5 billion, which was completed in 2009, while Indian Railway Construction (IRCON) was awarded the RM3.5 billion Seremban-Gemas job, which is currently under construction. The Gemas-JB double track project is estimated to cost more than RM7 billion as it involves the construction of railway tracks as well as a transportation hub in Johor Bahru with possible links to the Mass Rapid Transit in Singapore.

*(Sourced from BERNAMA)*

## PERODUA 'Eco-Challenge' Competition on for the Third Year

Only 13 participants from selected institutions of higher learning, consisting of public and private higher education bodies, were selected for the third instalment of the PERODUA 'Eco-Challenge' competition. The main objective of the competition is to provide a training ground for undergraduates to challenge their engineering knowledge and to promote innovativeness among them. The participants are given five months to produce a car that can go the furthest with a litre of petrol. Their design will be put to a race at the Malacca International Motorsports Circuit on June 25. Perodua managing director Datuk Aminar Rashid Salleh said the 'Eco-Challenge' is different from the previous ones as the contestants were only given the engine and transmission system. He said the participants were given an extra month to prepare before the race day. This year, each team will be given RM17,500 in seed money. He added that Perodua has allocated about RM1.2 million for the competition. A total of RM77,000 has been allocated for prizes and the longest distance winners will take home RM20,000.

*(Sourced from The Star)*

## UTAR and Infineon to Collaborate on R&D

UNIVERSITI Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) and Infineon Technologies (Kulim) Sdn Bhd has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to collaborate on research and development (R&D). Under the MoU, staff members would conduct mutual visits for the purpose of research, training and publications as well as to organise and participate in seminars, conferences and workshops. Prof. Dr Lee Sze Wei, UTAR Vice-President (R&D and Commercialisation), said the collaboration would allow the university's undergraduate and post-graduate students to conduct study visits and industrial training at Infineon's facility in Kulim, Kedah. Likewise, staff of Infineon would undertake training and research activities as well as academic programmes at UTAR. Dr Grassmann Andreas, Infineon Technologies (Kulim) Sdn Bhd Senior Director and Head of Technology, said the company looked forward to taking in students of UTAR as its employees as it is embarking on massive expansions at its Kulim facility. Infineon is the second biggest employer in the local sector with 7,000 people employed at its Kulim and Malacca facilities.

*(Sourced from The Star)*

## Sime Darby's E&U Division and Mustang Forms Joint Venture Company

Sime Darby Bhd's Energy and Utilities Division and Mustang, a Wood Group Company, have formed Mustang Sime Darby, a joint-venture company that will provide project management, design, and procurement support services for the oil and gas (O&G) industry. Mustang is a leading global O&G engineering and project management company, providing project management, conceptual and detailed engineering, and construction management services. Datuk Jauhari Hamidi, Sime Darby Energy and Utilities Division Executive Vice President (Non-China Operations), said the joint venture will enhance Sime Darby's portfolio of services. Meanwhile, A.J. Cortez, Mustang Executive Vice President, said Mustang's project management and engineering experience, combined with Sime Darby's full service capabilities, skilled workforce and strong reputation in the region, will allow it to enhance its offerings in the O&G market in Southeast Asia. Wood Group is an international energy services company with a presence in 50 countries worldwide, generating approximately US\$5 billion sales and employing 29,000 people for its three businesses, namely, engineering and production facilities, well support and gas turbine services.

*(Sourced from BERNAMA)*