



### Swarovski Hello Kitty on your laptop

JAPAN'S computer giant NEC employee Ayumi Tamotsu displays the new notebook PC LaVie G Hello Kitty, decorated with Swarovski crystals shaped character of Hello Kitty at the company's showroom in Tokyo last week. The Hello Kitty PC, equipped with AMD Sempron processor on its central processing unit and a 15.4-inch LCD display with special desktop design, will go on sale from June 19. - AFP

# Teras to test new toll solution

By Foo Eu Jin

**T**ERAS Teknologi Sdn Bhd, a wholly owned unit of United Engineers (M) Bhd, is set to test a locally developed Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) tolling solution in the fourth quarter of this year that will eliminate the need for highway toll booths.

Its systems development division senior manager, system design Bahrin Sarif said that the solution, which is currently in the development stage, is set for testing towards year-end.

"The MLFF solution that is to be rolled out is basically an on-board unit (OBU) that can be attached to the vehicle, which can then be read by a transponder on a gantry. By using this solution, toll service providers can do away with the toll plaza and barrier altogether," he told *Tech&U* recently.

In order to meet with the anticipated launch in 2009, he said that the authorities are currently trying to resolve some

issues such as the legal and cost aspects for road users and service providers.

Bahrin said that the system can also be used for implementation of the area road pricing system in future, where road users would have to pay a toll for the use of all roads over a wide area in the city, with the toll charge varying according to the road and the time of day.

Prior to the launch of the MLFF system, the company is also testing other toll systems such as the smartcard-based recyclable transit ticket (RTT) system that is able to store the image of the road user's vehicle.

Bahrin noted that when implemented in 2008, this system will benefit the toll service providers because it is a smartcard that is not only reuseable, but allows the toll booth teller to identify the vehicle based on the image that is stored in the smartcard.

The company has also developed the second-genera-

tion SmartTAG lane that allows its toll service providers' clients to boost efficiency as a result of the system's self-managing capabilities.

According to him, the new SmartTAG lane has been implemented at the Stormwater Management and Road Tunnel (Smart) project in Kuala Lumpur and is expected to be deployed by Projek Lebuhraya Utara Selatan (PLUS) in the third quarter of this year.

Another new system for toll plazas that has been introduced is the automatic vehicle classification (AVC) system recently installed at the PLUS highway.

In future, the system will be upgraded to incorporate the weigh-in-motion capability to monitor the excess weight of lorries.

According to Bahrin, Teras commands a 70 per cent market share in the country in the toll systems market and is targeting a RM60 million order this year.

## Microsoft sees mobile software sales jump in Asia

MICROSOFT Corp said it expects sales of its Windows Mobile program in the Asia-Pacific region to jump by over 75 per cent in the business year to June, helped by closer ties with wireless carriers and device makers.

Microsoft, which lags behind leader Symbian Ltd in the mobile software market, is eyeing demand for high-data applications as the line between consumer gadgets and PCs blurs, Tony Mestres, general manager of Microsoft's mobile business, said last week. "Unit shipment (growth)

in Asia will exceed 75 per cent this fiscal year, and that's a comfortable number."

Microsoft is keen to raise mobile software sales in Asia, which are currently less than one per cent of total revenue, as it tries to catch up with Symbian's operating system used in high-end models made by Nokia, LG Electronics and Samsung Electronics.

Microsoft expects unit shipments of Windows Mobile to double in the year ending June 2008 to 20 million units. - Reuters

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