



**SENIOR MINISTER
MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY**

MEDIA RELEASE

**AUSTRIAN AT&S CHOOSES MALAYSIA
AS ITS FIRST PRODUCTION PLANT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA**

AT&S, the Austria-headquartered global manufacturing leader of high-end printed circuit boards (PCB) and integrated circuit (IC) substrates, has chosen Malaysia as its first production plant in Southeast Asia. Mr. Andreas Gerstenmayer, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of AT&S met with YAB Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, yesterday during a video conference to convey the official announcement.

AT&S' new facility in Kulim Hi-Tech Park, Kedah, to produce high-end PCBs and IC substrates involves a proposed total investment of RM8.5 billion (€1.7 billion) and will create 5,000 high-tech and high impact jobs. The construction of the facility is scheduled to begin in the second half of 2021 with commercial operations targeted to come on stream in 2024. This project is among the investments attracted by the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) under the National Short-Term Economic Recovery Plan's (PENJANA) investment scheme, launched on 5 June 2020.

AT&S' high end PCB and IC substrates are used in mobile devices, industrial electronics, automotive applications as well as medical and health technology. As an international enterprise, the company has production facilities in Austria, India, China and South Korea.

At the meeting, I expressed optimism that the investment also holds out bright prospects for our local SMEs to benefit from the supply chain generated. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Arham Abdul Rahman, CEO of MIDA and AT&S Chief Operating Officer (COO) Mr. Ingolf Schröder. Also present were Malaysian Ambassador to the Republic of Austria Dato' Ganeson Sivagurunathan and Dr. Michael Postl, Austrian Ambassador to Malaysia, joining from Vienna and Kuala Lumpur, respectively.

Welcoming AT&S into Malaysia's vibrant electrical and electronics (E&E) ecosystem, the Prime Minister said, "AT&S' decision to invest here speaks volumes of its confidence in the Malaysian economy's capacity and promise of sustainable growth."

The Prime Minister expressed confidence that Malaysia's E&E industry's skilled talent pool, facilitative investment environment, as well as deep integration with international supply chains, offer the ideal mix for high-tech stakeholders. "Working hand in hand, AT&S' footprint in Malaysia will also further boost the development of our semiconductor ecosystem, enable opportunities for our local vendors in the field of advanced electronics and spur high-tech employment for Malaysians," the Prime Minister added.

In congratulating AT&S on their significant move to Malaysia for the business expansion, the Prime Minister applauded AT&S' commitment to Malaysia, with MIDA having worked closely with the Company since November last year to secure the project. "The Government of Malaysia will ensure timely approval of the implementation of the project and in this regard, AT&S is welcome to utilise the facility provided under the One Stop Centre (OSC) for Business Travellers," the Prime Minister said. Commending the hard work put in by MITI and MIDA to attract more quality investments globally, particularly in the areas of technology and innovation, the Prime Minister said, "This investment announcement represents a key win for Malaysia in proving our efforts to source for high-quality investments from international companies."

In explaining the choice for their strategic decision, AT&S CEO Mr. Andreas Gerstenmayer said, "After very intensive location scouting globally, Malaysia has emerged as the country in which we want to push ahead with our 'More than AT&S' strategy," adding that, "AT&S brings the latest generation of high-end technologies to the country and builds up a whole new technology sector. Beside manufacturing of high-tech products, a significant amount of R&D activities will be executed at this new location. Malaysia can benefit its position as a technology-country and can strengthen the region as a high-tech manufacturing hub in Asia."

Pointing out the perfect win-win-situation, AT&S COO Mr. Ingolf Schröder said, "The location in the Kulim Hi-Tech Park, Kedah is a perfect match to our expansion plans. Beside the excellent infrastructure and stable supply chain, the whole ecosystem has been aligned in the last decades, the semiconductor

industry has been in Malaysia for more than 30 years and the overall environment is very well developed.”

No doubt, AT&S’ latest investment is a testament to the confidence of foreign investors in Malaysia’s economic prospects as well as the human capital resource available to cope with the high-tech demands of high-impact industries. Coupled with the strong showing of investment approvals for the first quarter (Q1) of this year, totalling RM80.6 billion in the manufacturing, services and primary sectors, AT&S’ investment bodes well for Malaysia’s recovery efforts from the economic challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

DATO’ SERI MOHAMED AZMIN ALI
10 JUNE 2021

Article link: <https://www.malaymail.com/news/money/2021/06/10/miti-austrias-ats-chooses-malaysia-for-first-se-asia-production-plant-5000/1981163>

Austria's AT&S plans US\$2 billion investment in Malaysian plant

KUALA LUMPUR: Austria-headquartered semiconductor manufacturer AT&S Austria Technologie & Systemtechnik AG plans to invest 8.5 billion ringgit (US\$2 billion) to set up a production plant in Malaysia, its first in Southeast Asian, Malaysia's International Trade and Industry Ministry said on Thursday.

Construction of the facility in Kulim Hi-Tech Park in the northern state of Kedah, is scheduled to begin in the second half of this year and commercial operations are targeted to commence in 2024, the ministry said in a statement.

"Besides manufacturing of high-tech products, a significant amount of R&D activities will be executed at this new location," AT&S Chief Executive Officer Andreas Gerstenmayer said.

AT&S, which makes high-end printed circuit boards and integrated circuit substrates used in mobile devices, industrial electronics, automotive applications as well as medical and health technology, has production facilities in Austria, India, China and South Korea.

Malaysia has a mature electrical and electronics manufacturing sector that supplies to big names including Apple Inc. Exports from the sector make up about 40per cent of its total annual exports and approximately 7per cent of global semiconductor trade, according to the government.

"AT&S' footprint in Malaysia will also further boost the development of our semiconductor ecosystem, enable opportunities for our local vendors in the field of advanced electronics and spur high-tech employment for Malaysians," Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin said.

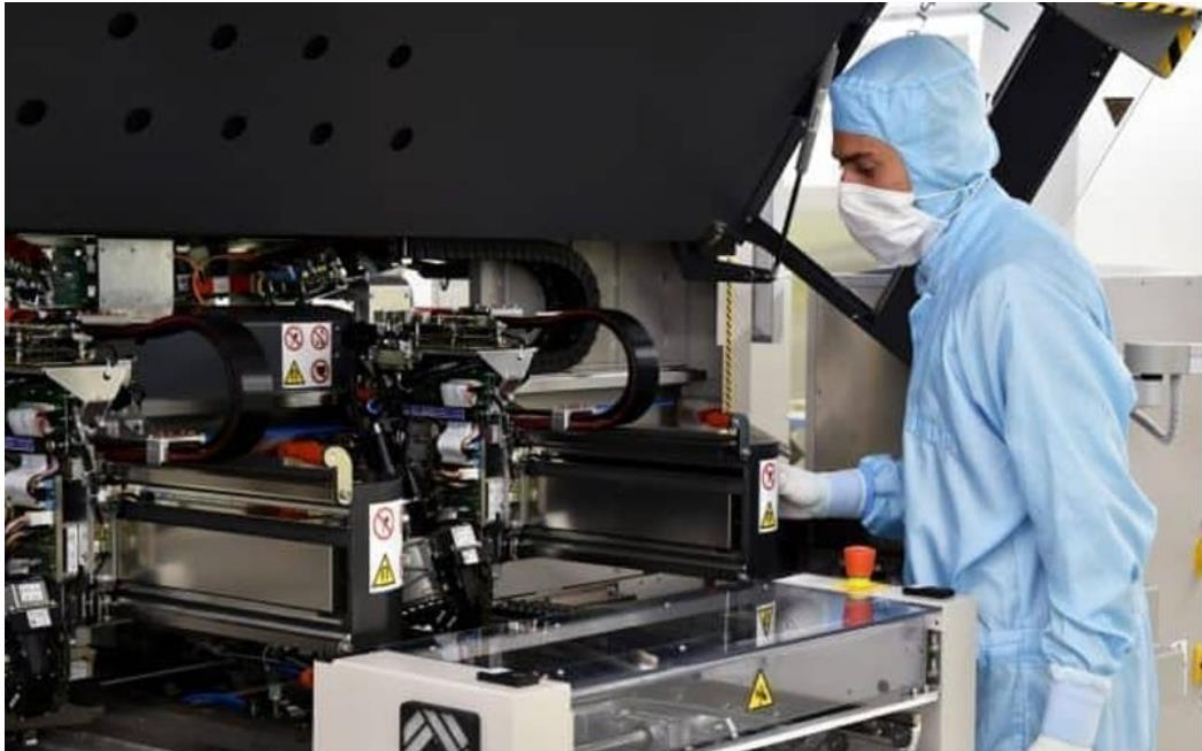
(US\$1 = 4.1170 ringgit)

(Reporting by Liz Lee; Editing by Robert Birsell)

Article link: <https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2021/06/10/austrias-ats-to-invest-rm8-5bil-to-set-up-plant-in-kulim/>

Austria's AT&S to invest RM8.5bil to set up plant in Kulim

Bernama - June 10, 2021 4:51 PM



The construction of the facility in Kulim is scheduled to begin in the second half of 2021 with commercial operations targeted to come on stream in 2024. (AT&S pic)

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia has been chosen by Austria-based AT&S, a global manufacturing leader of high-end printed circuit boards (PCBs) and integrated circuit (IC) substrates, as the site for its first production plant in Southeast Asia.

The facility, which involves a proposed total investment of RM8.5 billion, will be set up in Kulim Hi-Tech Park, Kedah.

It will produce high-end PCBs and IC substrates, senior minister for economy and international trade and industry minister Azmin Ali said in a statement today.

It is expected to create 5,000 high-tech and high-impact jobs, he said.

In the same statement, Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin said AT&S' decision to invest in Malaysia speaks volumes for its confidence in the Malaysian economy's capacity and promise of sustainable growth.

He expressed confidence that the country's skilled talent pool in the electrical and electronics industry, facilitative investment environment, as well as deep integration with international supply chains, offer the ideal mix for high-tech stakeholders.

According to the statement, the construction of the facility is scheduled to begin in the second half of 2021 with commercial operations targeted to come on stream in 2024.

Meanwhile, AT&S chief executive officer Andreas Gerstenmayer said Malaysia was chosen after “very intensive location scouting globally”.

He said the company would bring the latest generation of high-end technologies to the country and build up a whole new technology sector.

“Besides the manufacture of high-tech products, a significant amount of research and development activities will be executed at this new location.

“Malaysia can benefit from its position as a technology country and can strengthen the region as a high-tech manufacturing hub in Asia,” he added.

Azmin said AT&S’ latest investment is a testament to the confidence of foreign investors in Malaysia’s economic prospects as well as the human capital resources available to cope with the high-tech demands of high-impact industries.

Article link: <https://www.malaymail.com/news/money/2021/06/10/miti-austrias-ats-chooses-malaysia-for-first-se-asia-production-plant-5000/1981163>

Miti: Austria's AT&S chooses Malaysia for first SE Asia production plant, 5,000 jobs created

Thursday, 10 Jun 2021 04:26 PM MYT
BY SHAHRIN AIZAT NOORSHAHIRIZAM



The logo of Austrian maker of printed circuit boards (PCBs) AT&S is seen at its headquarters in Leoben, Austria, July 5, 2016. — Reuters pic

KUALA LUMPUR, June 10 — Austria-headquartered global manufacturing company AT&S has chosen Malaysia as the home for its first production plant in South-east Asia, according to the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (Miti).

Its minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali issued a brief statement that AT&S CEO, Andreas Gerstenmayr, had spoken to Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin yesterday via a video conference to convey the official announcement.

According to the statement, the company's main product of high-end printed circuit boards (PCB) and integrated circuit (IC) substrates involves a proposed total investment of RM8.5 billion (€1.7 billion) and will create 5,000 high-tech and high impact jobs once its new facility at Kulim Hi-Tech Park in Kedah opens.

"The construction of the facility is scheduled to begin in the second half of 2021 with commercial operations targeted to come on stream in 2024.

"This project is among the investments attracted by the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (Mida) under the National Short-Term Economic Recovery Plan's (Penjana) investment scheme, launched on June 5, 2020," Azmin said in a statement today.

In the statement, it also said that AT&S' high-end PCB and IC substrates are used in mobile devices, industrial electronics, automotive applications as well as medical and health technology. As an international enterprise, the company has production facilities in Austria, India, China and South Korea.

Azmin added that he is optimistic that the investment also holds out bright prospects for our local SMEs to benefit from the supply chain generated.

Echoing the Miti minister, Muhyiddin said that AT&S' decision to invest in Malaysia spoke volumes of the company's confidence in the Malaysian economy's capacity and promise of sustainable growth.

"Working hand in hand, AT&S' footprint in Malaysia will also further boost the development of our semiconductor ecosystem, enable opportunities for our local vendors in the field of advanced electronics and spur high-tech employment for Malaysians," the prime minister added.

Also present at the meeting, its local partner CEO of Mida Arham Abdul Rahman, AT&S Chief Operating Officer (COO) Ingolf Schröder, Malaysian Ambassador to the Republic of Austria Dato' Ganeson Sivagurunathan and Dr Michael Postl, Austrian Ambassador to Malaysia, from Vienna and Kuala Lumpur, respectively.

Explaining why the company chose Malaysia, CEO of AT&S Andreas Gerstenmaye explained that after very intensive location scouting globally, the country has emerged in which the company want to push ahead with our 'More than AT&S' strategy.

"AT&S brings the latest generation of high- end technologies to the country and builds up a whole new technology sector.

"Beside manufacturing of high-tech products, a significant amount of R&D activities will be executed at this new location. Malaysia can benefit its position as a technology-country and can strengthen the region as a high-tech manufacturing hub in Asia." Gerstenmaye added.

Azmin said that AT&S' latest investment is a testament to the confidence of foreign investors in Malaysia's economic prospects as well as the human capital resource available to cope with the high-tech demands of high-impact industries.

"Coupled with the strong showing of investment approvals for the first quarter (Q1) of this year, totalling RM80.6 billion in the manufacturing, services and primary sectors, AT&S' investment bodes well for Malaysia's recovery efforts from the economic challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic," he added.

Article link: <https://www.malaysianow.com/news/2021/06/10/european-circuits-board-giant-picks-malaysia-in-rm8-5-billion-boost-to-pandemic-recovery/>

European circuits board giant picks Malaysia in RM8.5 billion boost to pandemic recovery

The plant in Kedah is expected to generate 5,000 high-impact jobs.
Jun 10, 2021 2:40 PM



Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin in a virtual session attended by senior minister Mohamed Azmin Ali, MIDA officials as well as those from AT&S, which announced its decision to set up a plant in Kedah. Photo: Facebook

Leading circuits board maker AT&S has announced a RM8.5 billion investment for a plant in Malaysia, in a major boost to the economy as the country seeks to recover from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Austrian-based giant which has factories in India, China and South Korea, is a global leader in high-end printed circuit boards and integrated circuit substrates, as well as a major parts supplier to global computer brands including Apple.

Despite the pandemic, AT&S recorded a double-digit increase in revenue and earnings for the 2020/21 period, with a record revenue of €1.19 billion, up 19% from the year before.

The plant at the Kulim Hi-Tech Park in Kedah will mark its debut in the Southeast Asian region, and is expected to create 5,000 high-tech and high-impact jobs once operations begin in 2024.

“No doubt, AT&S’ latest investment is a testament to the confidence of foreign investors in Malaysia’s economic prospects as well as the human capital resource available to cope with the high-tech demands of high-impact industries,” International Trade and Industry Minister Mohamed Azmin Ali said in a statement welcoming the company’s decision.

The decision was officially conveyed by AT&S CEO Andreas Gerstenmayer to Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin during a video conference yesterday.

Gerstenmayer said AT&S had been involved in “very intensive location scouting globally”, adding that Malaysia was chosen to push ahead its “More than AT&S” initiative.

“Beside the manufacturing of high-tech products, a significant number of R&D activities will be executed at this new location. Malaysia can benefit from its position as a technology country and can strengthen the region as a high-tech manufacturing hub in Asia,” he said.

AT&S chief operating officer Ingolf Schröder meanwhile described the Kulim Hi-Tech Park as the “perfect match” for its expansion plans.

This comes on the back of the latest figures revealed by the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (Mida) that the country recorded RM80.6 billion in approved investments in the manufacturing, services and primary sectors in the first quarter of this year, a 95.6% spike from RM41.2 billion in the same period last year.

Azmin said the AT&S project was the result of Mida’s engagements with the company since last November, as part of efforts under the Penjana scheme, or the National Short-Term Economic Recovery Plan, launched to restart the economy following the nationwide lockdown in 2020.

AT&S’ high-end circuit boards are used in mobile devices, industrial electronics, automotive applications as well as medical and health technology.

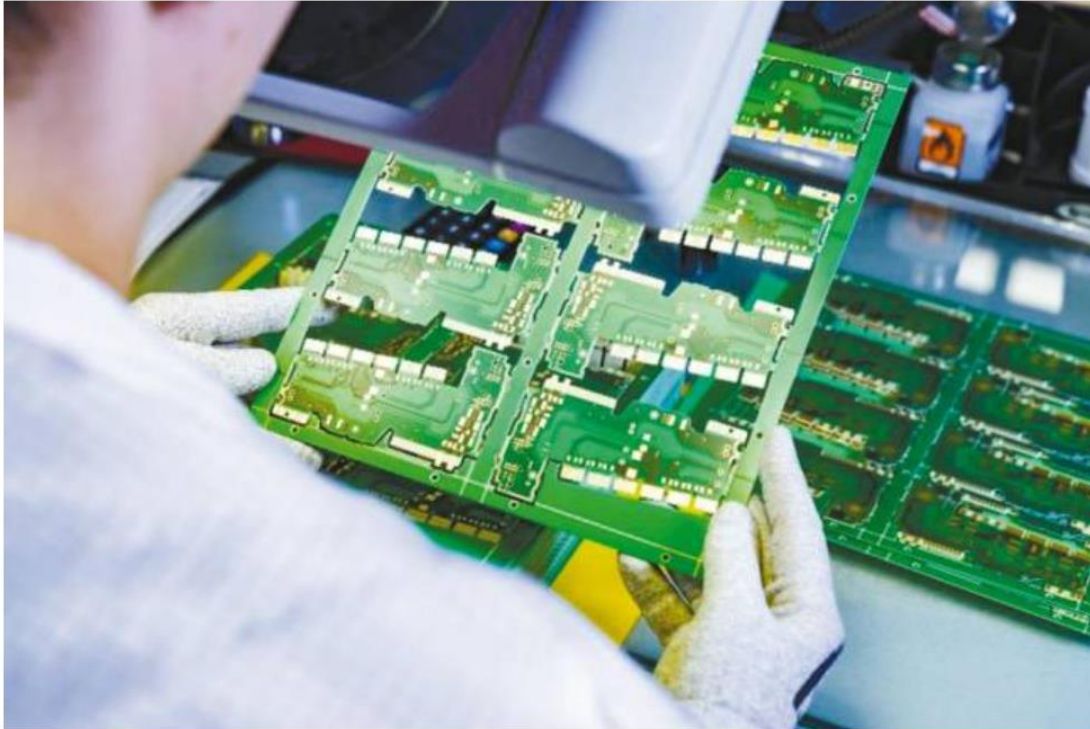
Meanwhile, Muhyiddin commended the international trade and industry ministry as well as Mida for their work in attracting investors.

“This investment announcement represents a key win for Malaysia in proving our efforts to source for high-quality investments from international companies.”

Article link: <https://www.thesundaily.my/business/ats-makes-foray-into-kulim-with-rm85b-investment-BG7954452>

AT&S makes foray into Kulim with RM8.5b investment

SUNBIZ / 10 JUN 2021 / 22:35 H.



PETALING JAYA: Malaysia welcomed an RM8.5 billion (€1.7 billion) investment from Austria-based manufacturer of high-end printed circuit boards (PCB) and integrated circuit (IC) substrates AT&S to set up a manufacturing facility in Kulim, Kedah, which will see the creation of 5,000 jobs.

“The facility will produce PCB and IC substrates with construction slated to commence in the second half of this year, while commercial operation is expected to come on stream in 2024,” Senior Minister and International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali said in a statement today.

This project is among the investments attracted by the Malaysian Investment Development Authority under the National Short-Term Economic Recovery Plan’s (Penjana) investment scheme, launched on June 5, 2020.

AT&S’ high end PCB and IC substrates are used in mobile devices, industrial electronics, automotive applications as well as medical and health technology.

As an international enterprise, the company has production facilities in Austria, India, China and South Korea.

AT&S CEO Andreas Gerstenmayer stated that it came to the decision to invest in Malaysia after scouting globally.

“Beside manufacturing of high-tech products, a significant amount of research & development activities will be executed at this new location,” Gerstenmayer said.

“AT&S’ footprint in Malaysia will also further boost the development of our semiconductor ecosystem, enable opportunities for our local vendors in the field of advanced electronics and spur high-tech employment for Malaysians,” Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said.

Original article from

<https://www.theedgemarkets.com/article/%E5%A5%A5%E5%9C%B0%E5%88%A9ats%E6%8A%95%E8%B5%8485%E4%BA%BF-%E5%9C%A8%E9%A9%AC%E8%AE%BE%E4%B8%9C%E5%8D%97%E4%BA%9A%E9%A6%96%E5%8E%82>

（吉隆坡10日讯）总部位于奥地利的全球高端印刷电路板和集成电路基板制造商AT&S，选择在马来西亚设其在东南亚的第一间制造工厂。

国际贸易及工业部长拿督斯里阿兹敏在文告中指出，AT&S的新厂坐落于吉打居林高科技园，生产高端印刷电路板和集成电路基板，涉及投资金额为85亿令吉（17亿欧元）。

他表示，该厂将创造5000个高科技和高效能工作岗位。

Translation to English:

(Kuala Lumpur, 10th June) AT&S, a global manufacturer of high-end printed circuit boards and integrated circuit substrates headquartered in Austria, has chosen to set up its first manufacturing plant in Southeast Asia in Malaysia.

The Minister of International Trade and Industry Datuk Seri Azmin mentioned in a statement that AT&S's new plant is located in the Kulim High-Tech Park, Kedah, and will produce high-end printed circuit boards and integrated circuit substrates, involving an investment of RM8.5 billion (1.7 billion EUR).

He also said that the plant will create 5,000 high-technology jobs.

Original article from <http://www.startup-partner.com/16280.html>

创头条编译 马来西亚国际贸易和工业部周四（6月10日）表示，奥地利半导体生产商AT&S计划投资85亿林吉特（20 亿美元），在马来西亚建一家生产工厂。这将是AT&S在东南亚的第一家工厂。工厂将坐落在一家高科技园区中，计划于今年下半年开始建造，目标是在2024 年开始商业运营。

“除了生产高科技产品，还将在这个新地点开展大量研发活动。” AT&S 首席执行官Andreas Gerstenmayer说。

AT&S生产高端印刷电路板和集成电路基板，用于移动设备、工业电子器件、汽车应用以及医疗和健康技术。AT&S在奥地利、印度、中国和韩国建有生产工厂。

马来西亚有一个成熟的电气和电子制造业，为苹果等知名企业供货。马来西亚政府数据显示，该行业约占马来西亚年度出口总额的40%，约占全球半导体贸易的 7%。

“AT&S 在马来西亚建厂也将进一步推动我们的半导体生态系统发展，为本地先进电子领域的供应商提供机会，以及刺激马来西亚的高科技就业。” 该国总理穆希丁·亚辛说。

Translation to English:

The Malaysian Ministry of International Trade and Industry said on Thursday (June 10) that Austrian semiconductor manufacturer AT&S plans to invest 8.5 billion Ringgit (2 billion US dollars) to build a production plant in Malaysia. This will be AT&S's first factory in Southeast Asia. The factory will be located in a high-tech park and is scheduled to start construction in the second half of this year. The goal is to start commercial operations in 2024.

"In addition to producing high-tech products, a lot of research and development activities will be carried out at this new location," said AT&S CEO Andreas Gerstenmayer.

AT&S produces high-end printed circuit boards and integrated circuit substrates for mobile devices, industrial electronics, automotive applications, and medical and health technologies. AT&S has production plants in Austria, India, China and South Korea.

Malaysia has a mature electrical and electronic manufacturing industry that supplies well-known companies such as Apple. According to Malaysian government data, this industry accounts for approximately 40% of Malaysia's total annual exports and approximately 7% of global semiconductor trade.

"The establishment of AT&S in Malaysia will also further promote the development of our semiconductor ecosystem, provide opportunities for local suppliers in the advanced electronics field, and stimulate high-tech employment in Malaysia," said Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin.

Original article from <https://www.bharian.com.my/bisnes/lain-lain/2021/06/826207/ats-labur-rm85-bilion-buka-kilang-di-malaysia>

KUALA LUMPUR: AT&S, peneraju pembuatan papan litar bercetak (PCB) global dan substrat litar bersepadu (IC) berpangkalan di Austria memilih Malaysia sebagai lokasi kilang pengeluaran pertamanya di Asia Tenggara.

Kemudahan pengeluaran baharu AT&S di Kulim Hi-Tech Park (KHTP), Kedah yang menghasilkan PCB dan substrat IC berteknologi tinggi dijangka membabitkan pelaburan RM8.5 bilion (€1.7 bilion) dan mewujudkan 5,000 peluang pekerjaan berteknologi serta berimpak tinggi.

Pembinaan kilang pengeluaran itu dijangka dimulakan pada separuh kedua tahun ini dengan jangkaan operasi komersialnya pada 2024.

Projek berimpak tinggi itu menjadi antara tarikan pelaburan oleh Lembaga Pembangunan Pelaburan Malaysia (MIDA) di bawah Skim Galakan Pelan Jana Semula Ekonomi Negara (PENJANA) yang diperkenalkan pada 5 Jun tahun lalu.

Mengulas mengenainya, Perdana Menteri, Tan Sri Muhyiddin, berkata negara mengalu-alukan keputusan AT&S melabur di Malaysia dengan pelaburan di KHTP adalah yang terbesar dalam sejarah syarikat Austria itu.

"Saya bagi pihak kerajaan Malaysia menyuarakan perasaan sukacita dan amat mengalu-alukan keputusan AT&S untuk melabur di Malaysia.

"Projek ini juga adalah antara projek pelaburan yang berjaya dibawa masuk ke negara ini di bawah Skim Galakan PENJANA.

"Dengan pelaksanaan projek itu kelak, ia dijangka akan dapat menjana 5,000 peluang pekerjaan kepada rakyat tempatan," katanya dalam laman Facebook rasminya, hari ini.

Perdana Menteri sebelum itu mengadakan mesyuarat secara maya bersama AT&S yang diketuai oleh Ketua Pegawai Eksekutifnya, Andreas Gerstenmayer.

Mesyuarat yang diadakan semalam turut disertai Menteri Kanan Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri, Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali; Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif MIDA, Arham Abdul Rahman dan Ketua Pegawai Operasi AT&S, Ingolf Schröder.

Turut serta, Duta Malaysia ke Austria, Datuk Ganeson Sivagurunathan dan Duta Austria ke Malaysia, Michael Postl.

Perdana Menteri berkata, pelaburan AT&S jelas menunjukkan keyakinan pelabur asing untuk terus menjadikan Malaysia sebagai destinasi pilihan pelaburan walaupun dunia sedang berhadapan dengan cabaran pandemik COVID-19.

"Trend ini konsisten dengan jumlah pelaburan yang diluluskan pada suku pertama 2021 seperti yang diumumkan oleh Kementerian Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri (MITI) dan MIDA berjumlah RM80.6 bilion dalam sektor pengeluaran, perkhidmatan dan industri primer yang menunjukkan peningkatan 95.6 peratus dari suku yang sama tahun lalu.

"Syukur Alhamdulillah, trend seperti ini menunjukkan bahawa komuniti pelaburan yakin terhadap prospek pemulihan ekonomi negara.

"Kerajaan akan terus meningkatkan usaha untuk menarik pelabur asing dan tempatan untuk terus melabur dan memperbanyak peluang pekerjaan, sekali gus membantu pemulihan ekonomi Malaysia dan meningkatkan kesejahteraan rakyat dalam berhadapan cabaran ekonomi ketika pandemik," katanya.

Muhyiddin berkata, kerajaan yang amat mesra pelabur, sentiasa mengalu-alukan kemasukan pelaburan baharu dan berkualiti ke Malaysia, lebih-lebih lagi dalam bidang teknologi dan inovasi.

Katanya, Malaysia juga sentiasa bersedia untuk menawarkan pelbagai insentif bagi menggalakkan lebih banyak pelaburan asing ke negara ini.

"Saya telah menegaskan bahawa kerajaan menerusi melalui MITI dan MIDA akan memastikan supaya pelaksanaan projek yang telah dirancang oleh AT&S akan berjalan dengan lancar," katanya.

Sementara itu, Gerstenmayer berkata, selain menjadi pusat pengeluaran produk berteknologi tinggi, kemudahan di KHTP akan menempatkan aktiviti penyelidikan dan pembangunan (R&D) AT&S.

"Selepas mencari lokasi secara intensif di seluruh dunia, Malaysia muncul sebagai negara di mana kami ingin terus maju dengan strategi AT&S dengan membawa teknologi terkini serta membangunkan teknologi baharu di negara ini.

"Malaysia juga dapat memanfaatkan kedudukannya sebagai negara teknologi dan berkemampuan memperkukuhkan rantau ini sebagai hab pembuatan teknologi tinggi di Asia," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, Schröder berkata, lokasi di KHTP menawarkan infrastruktur dan rangkaian bekalan stabil terbaik, selain keseluruhan ekosistemnya memberi penekanan terhadap industri semikonduktor sejak beberapa dekad lalu.

"KHTP adalah lokasi paling sesuai untuk rancangan pengembangan perniagaan kami," katanya.

Translation to English:

KUALA LUMPUR: AT&S, the global leader in the manufacturing of printed circuit boards (PCBs) and integrated circuit substrates (ICs) based in Austria has chosen Malaysia as the location of its first production plant in Southeast Asia.

AT&S's new production facility at Kulim Hi-Tech Park (KHTP), Kedah, which produces high-tech PCBs and IC substrates, is expected to involve an investment of RM8.5 billion (€ 1.7 billion) and create 5,000 high-tech and high-impact jobs.

Construction of the production plant is expected to begin in the second half of this year with commercial operation expected in 2024.

The high-impact project is one of the investments attracted by the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) under the National Economic Regeneration Plan (PENJANA) Incentive Scheme which was introduced June 5th last year.

Commenting on this, the Prime Minister, Tan Sri Muhyiddin, said the country welcomed AT&S's decision to invest in Malaysia with the investment in KHTP being the largest in the history of the Austrian company.

"On behalf of the Malaysian government, I am pleased and very much welcome AT&S's decision to invest in Malaysia.

"This project is also one of the investment projects that have been successfully brought into the country under the PENJANA Incentive Scheme.

"With the implementation of the project, it is expected to be able to generate 5,000 job opportunities for locals," he said on his official Facebook page today.

The Prime Minister had earlier held a virtual meeting with AT&S led by its CEO, Andreas Gerstenmayer.

The meeting held yesterday was also attended by Senior Minister of International Trade and Industry, Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali; MIDA Chief Executive Officer, Arham Abdul Rahman and AT&S Chief Operating Officer, Ingolf Schröder.

Also present were Malaysian Ambassador to Austria, Datuk Ganeson Sivagurunathan and Austrian Ambassador to Malaysia, Michael Postl.

The Prime Minister said AT&S's investment clearly showed the confidence of foreign investors to continue to make Malaysia an investment destination of choice even as the world faced the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This trend is consistent with the total investments approved in the first quarter of 2021 as announced by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) and MIDA amounting to RM80.6 billion in the manufacturing, services, and primary industries sectors which showed an increase of 95.6% from the same quarter last year.

"Thank God, this trend shows that the investment community is confident in the prospects for the country's economic recovery.

"The government will continue to increase efforts to attract foreign and local investors to continue investing and increase employment opportunities, thus helping Malaysia's economic recovery and improving the well-being of the people in the face of economic challenges during a pandemic," he said.

Muhyiddin said the government, which was very investor friendly, always welcomed new and quality investments into Malaysia, especially in the field of technology and innovation. He said Malaysia was also always ready to offer various incentives to encourage more foreign investment into the country.

"I have stressed that the government through MITI and MIDA will ensure that the implementation of projects planned by AT&S will run smoothly," he said.

Meanwhile, Gerstenmayer said apart from being a production center for high-tech products, the facility at KHTP will house AT&S research and development (R&D) activities.

"After an intensive search for locations around the world, Malaysia has emerged as a country where we want to continue to move forward with AT&S's strategy by bringing the latest technology as well as developing new technologies in the country.

"Malaysia can also leverage its position as a technology nation and be able to strengthen the region as a high-tech manufacturing hub in Asia," he said.

In the meantime, Schröder said the location at KHTP offers the best stable infrastructure and supply chain, in addition to its entire ecosystem emphasizing the semiconductor industry over the past few decades.

"KHTP is the most suitable location for our business expansion plans," he said.

Original article from <https://www.utusan.com.my/berita/2021/06/syarikat-ats-buat-pelaburan-terbesar-rm8-5-bilion-di-malaysia/>

PUTRAJAYA: Syarikat Austria Technologie & Systemtechnik AG (AT&S) iaitu pengeluar utama dunia bagi produk high-end printed circuit boards (PCB) dan integrated circuit (IC) substrates, bersetuju membuat pelaburan sebanyak RM8.5 bilion di negara ini.

Perdana Menteri, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin berkata, perkara itu dinyatakan syarikat berkenaan ketika mesyuarat secara maya bersama Ketua Pegawai Eksekutifnya, Andreas Gerstenmayer serta barisan utama pihak pengurusan syarikat tersebut, semalam yang turut disertai Menteri Kanan Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri, Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali.

Menurut beliau, pelaburan terbesar dalam sejarah syarikat AT&S itu di negara ini adalah melibatkan pembangunan fasiliti perkilangan mereka yang pertama di Asia Tenggara, iaitu di Kulim High Technology Park (KHTP), Kedah.

“Andreas turut memaklumkan bahawa pelaburan AT&S di KHTP bagi mengeluarkan produk high-end PCB dan IC substrates akan bermula pada separuh tahun kedua tahun ini, manakala aktiviti komersial pula dijangka bermula pada tahun 2024.

“Saya bagi pihak kerajaan Malaysia menyuarakan perasaan sukacita dan amat mengalu-alukan keputusan syarikat AT&S untuk melabur di Malaysia. Projek tersebut juga merupakan salah satu projek pelaburan yang berjaya dibawa masuk ke negara ini di bawah Skim Galakan Pelan Jana Semula Ekonomi Negara (PENJANA),” katanya dalam kenyataan menerusi Facebook beliau hari ini.

Muhyiddin berkata, dengan pelaksanaan projek itu kelak, ia dijangka dapat menjana 5,000 peluang pekerjaan kepada rakyat tempatan. Perdana Menteri turut memaklumkan ketika mesyuarat itu bahawa Kerajaan Malaysia adalah amat mesra pelaburan dan sentiasa mengalu-alukan kemasukan pelaburan baharu dan berkualiti ke Malaysia. Lebih-lebih lagi, katanya, melibatkan bidang teknologi dan inovasi serta sentiasa bersedia untuk menawarkan pelbagai insentif bagi menggalakkan lebih banyak pelaburan asing ke Malaysia.

“Saya telah menegaskan bahawa kerajaan Malaysia melalui Kementerian Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri (MITI) dan Lembaga Pembangunan Pelaburan Malaysia (MIDA) akan memastikan supaya pelaksanaan projek yang telah dirancang oleh syarikat AT&S akan dapat berjalan dengan lancar.

“Pelaburan daripada AT&S ini jelas menunjukkan keyakinan pelabur asing untuk terus menjadikan Malaysia sebagai destinasi pilihan pelaburan walaupun dunia sedang berhadapan dengan cabaran pandemik Covid-19,” katanya.

Dalam pada itu, Muhyiddin berkata, aliran konsisten dengan jumlah pelaburan yang diluluskan pada suku pertama 2021 seperti yang diumumkan MITI dan MIDA semalam berjumlah RM80.6 bilion dalam sektor pengeluaran, perkhidmatan dan industri primer yang menunjukkan peningkatan 95.6 peratus dari suku yang sama tahun lalu.

Beliau menjelaskan, trend seperti ini menunjukkan bahawa komuniti pelaburan yakin terhadap prospek pemulihan ekonomi negara dan Kerajaan Malaysia akan terus meningkatkan usaha untuk menarik pelabur asing dan tempatan untuk terus melabur dan memperbanyak peluang pekerjaan.

“Ia sekali gus membantu pemulihan ekonomi Malaysia dan meningkatkan kesejahteraan rakyat dalam berhadapan cabaran ekonomi ketika pandemik Covid-19,” katanya. -UTUSAN ONLINE

Translation to English:

PUTRAJAYA: Austria Technologie & Systemtechnik AG (AT&S), the world's leading manufacturer of high-end printed circuit boards (PCBs) and integrated circuit (IC) substrates, has agreed to invest RM8.5 billion in the country.

Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the matter was stated by the company during a virtual meeting yesterday with its Chief Executive Officer, Andreas Gerstenmayer and the company's top management, which was also attended by Senior Minister of International Trade and Industry, Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali.

According to him, the biggest investment in the history of AT&S involves the development of their first manufacturing facility in Southeast Asia, at Kulim High Technology Park (KHTP), Kedah.

"Andreas also informed that AT&S's investment in KHTP to produce high-end PCB products and IC substrates will begin in the second half of this year, while commercial activities are expected to begin in 2024.

"On behalf of the Malaysian government, I express my happiness and very much welcome the decision of AT&S to invest in Malaysia. The project is also one of the investment projects that have been successfully brought into the country under the National Economic Regeneration Plan (PENJANA) Incentive Scheme," he said in a statement via Facebook today.

Muhyiddin said with the implementation of the project, it is expected to generate 5,000 job opportunities for locals. The Prime Minister also mentioned during the meeting that the Malaysian Government is very investment friendly and always welcomes new and quality investments into Malaysia. Moreover, he said, it involved the field of technology and innovation and the government was always ready to offer various incentives to encourage more foreign investment into Malaysia.

"I have emphasized that the Malaysian government through the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) and the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) will ensure that the implementation of projects planned by AT&S companies will run smoothly.

"The investment from AT&S clearly shows the confidence of foreign investors to continue to make Malaysia an investment destination of choice even though the world is facing the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic," he said.

Meanwhile, Muhyiddin said the investment flow was consistent with the total investments approved in the first quarter of 2021 as announced by MITI and MIDA yesterday amounting to RM80.6 billion in the manufacturing, services, and primary industries sectors which showed an increase of 95.6% from the same quarter last year.

He explained that such trends showed that the investment community was confident of the country's economic recovery prospects and the Malaysian Government would continue to increase efforts to attract foreign and local investors to continue investing and increase employment opportunities.

"It also helps Malaysia's economic recovery and improves the well-being of the people in the face of economic challenges during the Covid-19 pandemic," he said. -UTUSAN ONLINE

Austria's AT&S picks Malaysia as tech hub



TECHNOLOGY

Friday, 11 Jun 2021



KUALA LUMPUR: Austria-headquartered AT&S, which manufactures high-end printed circuit boards (PCB) and substrates for semiconductors, will set up a production plant in Malaysia – its first in South-East Asia.

AT&S' new facility in Kulim Hi-Tech Park, Kedah will produce high-end PCBs and integrated circuit (IC) substrates and it will involve a proposed total investment of RM8.5bil (€1.7bil) and create 5,000 high-tech and high-impact jobs.

Senior Minister of International Trade and Industry, Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali said the

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targeted to come onstream in 2024.

He said AT&S chief executive officer Andreas Gerstenmayer had a video conference with Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin on Wednesday where he conveyed the announcement.

Azmin also said the project was among the investments attracted by the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (Mida) under the national short-term economic recovery plan's (Penjana) investment scheme launched on June 5, 2020.

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AT&S, also known as AT&S Austria Technologie & Systemtechnik AG, manufactures high-end PCB and IC substrates which are used in mobile devices, industrial electronics, automotive applications as well as medical and health technology.

The company has production facilities in Austria, India, China and South Korea.

"At the meeting, I expressed optimism that the investment also holds out bright prospects for our local small and medium enterprises to benefit from the supply chain generated," he said.

Azmin added that the meeting was attended by Mida CEO Arham Abdul Rahman and AT&S chief operating officer Ingolf Schröder. Also present were Malaysian ambassador to Austria Datuk Ganeson Sivagurunathan, and his counterpart Dr Michael Postl, who is the Austrian ambassador to Malaysia.

Muhyiddin, in welcoming AT&S into Malaysia's vibrant electrical and electronics (E&E) ecosystem, said that AT&S' decision to invest in the country "speaks volumes of its confidence in the Malaysian economy's capacity and promise of sustainable growth".

The Prime Minister expressed confidence that Malaysia's E&E industry's skilled talent pool, facilitative investment environment, as well as deep integration with international supply chains offer the ideal mix for high-tech stakeholders.

"Working hand in hand, AT&S' footprint in Malaysia will also further boost the development of semiconductor ecosystem, enable opportunities for our local vendors in the field of advanced

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The Prime Minister congratulated AT&S on its business expansion into Malaysia and he applauded the company's commitment to the country.

Mida had worked closely with the company since November last year to secure the project.

"This investment announcement represents a key win for Malaysia in proving our efforts to source for high-quality investments from international companies," Muhyiddin said.

Gerstenmayer said after very intensive location scouting globally, Malaysia has emerged as the country in which AT&S wants to push ahead with its "more than AT&S" strategy.

"AT&S brings the latest generation of high-end technologies to the country and builds up a whole new technology sector.

"Besides manufacturing of high-tech products, a significant number of research and development activities will be executed at the new facility.

"Malaysia can benefit from its position as a technology country and can strengthen the region as a high-tech manufacturing hub in Asia."

AT&S' Schröder described the location in the Kulim Hi-Tech Park as a perfect match to the company's expansion plans.

"Besides the excellent infrastructure and stable supply chain, the whole ecosystem has been aligned in the last decade.

"The semiconductor industry has been in Malaysia for more than 30 years and the overall environment is very well-developed," he said.

Azmin said AT&S' investment reflected foreign investors' confidence in Malaysia's economic prospects as well as the human capital resource to cope with the high-tech demands of high-impact industries.

Coupled with the strong showing of investment approvals for the first quarter of this year, totalling RM80.6bil in the manufacturing, services and primary sectors, he said AT&S' investment bodes well for Malaysia's recovery efforts from the economic challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic.

TAGS / KEYWORDS:

Austria , AT&S , Malaysia , Tech Hub , Azmin Ali , Muhyiddin Yassin ,

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Austria's AT&S picks Malaysia for PCB, IC plant, total investment RM8.5b



ECONOMY

Thursday, 10 Jun 2021 3:21 PM MYT



Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin expressed confidence that Malaysia's E&E industry's skilled talent pool, facilitative investment environment, as well as deep integration with international supply chains, offer the ideal mix for high-tech stakeholders. Austria-headquartered AT&S, which manufactures high-end printed circuit boards and substrates for semiconductors will set up a production plant in Malaysia, its first in Southeast Asia.

KUALA LUMPUR: Austria-headquartered AT&S, which manufactures high-end printed circuit boards and substrates for semiconductors will set up a production plant in Malaysia, its first in Southeast Asia.

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high impact jobs.

Senior Minister of International Trade and Industry, Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali said on Thursday construction of the plant is set to begin in the second half of 2021 with commercial operations targeted to come on-stream in 2024.

AT&S chief executive officer Andreas Gerstenmayer had a video conference with Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin on Wednesday where he conveyed the official announcement.

Azmin also said this project is among the investments attracted by the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) under the National Short-Term Economic Recovery Plan's (PENJANA) investment scheme, launched on June 5, 2020.

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AT&S also known as AT & S Austria Technologie & Systemtechnik AG manufactures high end PCB and IC substrates which are used in mobile devices, industrial electronics, automotive applications as well as medical and health technology. The company has production facilities in Austria, India, China and South Korea.

"At the meeting, I expressed optimism that the investment also holds out bright prospects for our local SMEs to benefit from the supply chain generated," he said.

Azmin added the meeting was also attended by MIDA CEO Arham Abdul Rahman and AT&S chief operating officer Ingolf Schröder. Also present were Malaysian Ambassador to the Austria, Datuk Ganeson Sivagurunathan and his counterpart, Dr Michael Postl, who is the Austrian Ambassador to Malaysia, joining from Vienna and Kuala Lumpur, respectively.

Muhyiddin had in welcoming AT&S into Malaysia's vibrant electrical and electronics (E&E) ecosystem, described AT&S' decision to invest "speaks volumes of its confidence in the Malaysian economy's capacity and promise of sustainable growth".

The Prime Minister expressed confidence that Malaysia's E&E industry's skilled talent pool, facilitative investment environment, as well as deep integration with international supply chain

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Working hand in hand, AT&S' footprint in Malaysia will also further boost the development of our semiconductor ecosystem, enable opportunities for our local vendors in the field of advanced electronics and spur high-tech employment for Malaysians, " Muhyiddin said.

The Prime Minister congratulated AT&S on its significant move to Malaysia for the business expansion and applauded the company's commitment to Malaysia.

MIDA had worked closely with the company since November last year to secure the project.

"This investment announcement represents a key win for Malaysia in proving our efforts to source for high-quality investments from international companies, " Muhyiddin said.

Gerstenmayer said after very intensive location scouting globally, Malaysia has emerged as the country in which AT&S wants to push ahead with its "More than AT&S" strategy.

"AT&S brings the latest generation of high-end technologies to the country and builds up a whole new technology sector. Beside manufacturing of high-tech products, a significant amount of R&D activities will be executed at this new

location. Malaysia can benefit its position as a technology-country and can strengthen the region as a high-tech manufacturing hub in Asia."

AT&S' Schröder described the location in the Kulim Hi-Tech Park as a perfect match to the company's expansion plans.

"Beside the excellent infrastructure and stable supply chain, the whole ecosystem has been aligned in the last decades, the semiconductor industry has been in Malaysia for more than 30 years and the overall environment is very well developed, " he said.

Azmin said AT&S' latest investment reflected foreign investors' confidence in Malaysia's economic prospects as well as the human capital resource available to cope with the high-tech demands of high-impact industries.

He added that coupled with the strong showing of investment approvals for the first quarter (Q1) of this year, totalling RM80.6bil in the manufacturing, services and primary sectors, AT&S' investment bodes well for Malaysia's recovery efforts from the economic challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic.

TAGS / KEYWORDS:

AT&S , AT & S Austria Technologie & Systemtechnik AG , Muhyiddin , Azmin Ali , Andreas Gerstenmayer , Ingolf Schröder

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Article Link: <https://www.nst.com.my/business/2021/06/697584/austria-ats>

Austria's AT&S picks Malaysia for RM8.5 billion factory, its first in Southeast Asia

By Farah Adilla - June 10, 2021 @ 3:30pm



AT&S' new facility in Kulim Hi-Tech Park, Kedah involved a proposed total investment of RM8.5 billion (1.7 billion euro) and would create 5,000 high-tech and high impact jobs, Senior Minister and International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali said. KUALA LUMPUR: AT&S, the Austria-headquartered global manufacturing leader of high-end printed circuit boards (PCB) and integrated circuit (IC) substrates, has chosen Malaysia as its first production plant in Southeast Asia.

AT&S chief executive officer Andreas Gerstenmayer met with Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin via a video conference on Wednesday to convey the official announcement.

AT&S' new facility in Kulim Hi-Tech Park, Kedah involved a proposed total investment of RM8.5 billion (1.7 billion euro) and would create 5,000 high-tech and high impact jobs, Senior Minister and International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali said.

AT&S' latest investment was a testament to the confidence of foreign investors in Malaysia's economic prospects as well as the human capital resource available to cope with the high-tech demands of high-impact industries, Azmin added.

"Coupled with the strong showing of investment approvals for the first quarter of this year, totalling RM80.6 billion in the manufacturing, services and primary sectors,

AT&S' investment bodes well for Malaysia's recovery efforts from the economic challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic," he said in a statement today.

Construction of the facility is scheduled to begin in the second half of 2021 with commercial operations targeted to come on stream in 2024.

AT&S' high end PCB and IC substrates are used in mobile devices, industrial electronics, automotive applications as well as medical and health technology.

As an international enterprise, the company has production facilities in Austria, India, China and South Korea.

Welcoming AT&S into Malaysia's vibrant electrical and electronics (E&E) ecosystem, Muhyiddin said the group's decision to invest here spoke volumes of its confidence in the Malaysian economic capacity and promise of sustainable growth.

"Working hand in hand, AT&S' footprint in Malaysia will also further boost the development of our semiconductor ecosystem, enable opportunities for our local vendors in the field of advanced electronics and spur high-tech employment for Malaysians," he added.

Gerstenmayer said after very intensive location scouting globally, Malaysia had emerged as the country in which the company wanted to push ahead with its "More than AT&S" strategy.

"AT&S brings the latest generation of high-end technologies to the country and builds up a whole new technology sector.

"Beside manufacturing of high-tech products, a significant amount of R&D activities will be executed at this new location. Malaysia can benefit its position as a technology-country and can strengthen the region as a high-tech manufacturing hub in Asia," he said.

Article link: <https://www.theedgemarkets.com/newsletter/subscriptions>

Austria's AT&S to invest RM8.5b to set up plant in Malaysia, its first in Southeast Asia

June 10, 2021 16:20 pm +08

THE EDGE MALAYSIA CEOMORNINGBRIEF



theedgemarkets.com

KUALA LUMPUR (June 10): Austria-headquartered AT&S, a global manufacturer of high-end printed circuit boards (PCBs) and integrated circuit (IC) substrates, has chosen Malaysia for its first production plant in Southeast Asia.

The facility, which involves a proposed total investment of RM8.5 billion (€1.7 billion), will be set up in the Kulim Hi-Tech Park, Kedah, and produce high-end PCBs and IC substrates, Senior Minister and International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali said in a statement today.

It is expected to create 5,000 high-tech and high-impact jobs, he said.

In the same statement, Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said AT&S' decision to invest in Malaysia speaks volumes of its confidence in the Malaysian economy's capacity and promise of sustainable growth.

He expressed confidence that the country's skilled talent pool in the electrical and electronics (E&E) industry, facilitative investment environment as well as deep integration with international supply chains offer the ideal mix for high-tech stakeholders.

"Working hand in hand, AT&S' footprint in Malaysia will also further boost the development of our semiconductor ecosystem, enable opportunities for our local vendors in the field of advanced electronics and spur high-tech employment for Malaysians," he said.

According to the statement, the construction of the facility is scheduled to begin in the second half of 2021 (2H21), with commercial operations targeted to come on stream in 2024.

Meanwhile, AT&S chief executive officer (CEO) Andreas Gerstenmayer said Malaysia was chosen after "very intensive location scouting globally".

He said the company will bring the latest generation of high-end technologies to the country and build up a whole new technology sector.

"Besides the manufacture of high-tech products, a significant amount of research and development (R&D) activities will be executed at this new location.

"Malaysia can benefit from its position as a technology country and can strengthen the region as a high-tech manufacturing hub in Asia," he added.

Mohamed Azmin, meanwhile, said AT&S' latest investment is a testament to the confidence of foreign investors in Malaysia's economic prospects as well as the human capital resources available to cope with the high-tech demands of high-impact industries.

CEOMORNINGBRIEF

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US tire maker Goodyear loses dispute against foreign workers in Malaysia [p9](#)

IJM Corp special dividend seen from planned plantation arm sale proceeds [p10](#)

WORLD: Deloitte sued over alleged role in Singapore trader collapse [p18](#)

Tealive's parent sells 30% stake to PE firm Creador

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ATS.NET PHOTO



Austria's AT&S to invest RM8.5b to set up plant in Malaysia, its first in Southeast Asia

Report on Page 4.

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"Working hand in hand, AT&S' footprint in Malaysia will also further boost

Austria's AT&S to invest RM8.5b to set up plant in Malaysia, its first in Southeast Asia

Bernama



the development of our semiconductor ecosystem, enable opportunities for our local vendors in the field of advanced electronics and spur high-tech employ-

ment for Malaysians," he said.

According to the statement, the construction of the facility is scheduled to begin in the second half of 2021 (2H21), with commercial operations targeted to come on stream in 2024.

Meanwhile, AT&S chief executive officer (CEO) Andreas Gerstenmayer said Malaysia was chosen after "very intensive location scouting globally".

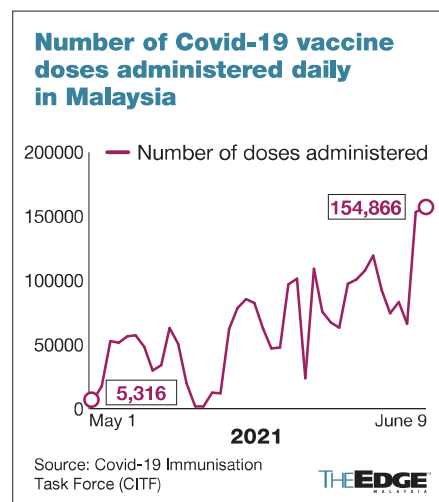
He said the company will bring the latest generation of high-end technologies to the country and build up a whole new technology sector.

"Besides the manufacture of high-tech products, a significant amount of research and development (R&D) activities will be executed at this new location.

"Malaysia can benefit from its position as a technology country and can strengthen the region as a high-tech manufacturing hub in Asia," he added.

Mohamed Azmin, meanwhile, said AT&S' latest investment is a testament to the confidence of foreign investors in Malaysia's economic prospects as well as the human capital resources available to cope with the high-tech demands of high-impact industries.

FROM PAGE 3



in Southeast Asia, which depends on 200 million doses made by Siam Bioscience, a company owned by Thailand's king that is making vaccines for the first time.

Separately, Malaysia registered 6,239 new Covid-19 cases yesterday, the second consecutive day in which daily infections showed an upward trend.

This raised the country's cumulative confirmed Covid-19 infections to 633,891 since the pandemic struck the nation last year. Another 75 fatalities linked to the coronavirus were reported yesterday, marking the fourth straight day of decline in daily deaths.

SME association calls for six-month automatic loan moratorium for all borrowers

BY ARJUNA CHANDRAN SHANKAR
theedgemarkets.com

KUALA LUMPUR (June 10): A six-month automatic loan moratorium that is interest-free and without any condition should be extended to all borrowers, according to the SME Association of Malaysia.

In a statement today, the association's president Datuk Michael Kang said that with the full-scale Movement Control Order in place, at least 40% of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are expected to close. He also augured that many workers will see job loss in the next few months, especially in June and July.

"SMEs are in need of help immediately and this automatic moratorium is highly required to ease their cash flow," he said.

Kang added that there is an urgent need for the government to look into the mat-

ter, and he believes that with the State of Emergency in place, there should not be an issue in implementing an automatic loan moratorium, even with objections from the banks.

He added that with the prolonged nature of the pandemic, most SMEs are struggling to make ends meet, with their resources slowly being exhausted, on top of concerns that they will not be able to meet obligations such as rent, employee salaries, utility bills, etc.

As such, he argued that for many businesses faced with such odds, closure is the only path available.

Kang also urged the government to speed up the national vaccination programme in order to revive the nation's economy, which will help businesses, the public and banks.

In the same vein, Kang also urged SMEs to adopt a serious attitude when it comes to dealing with Covid-19, by introducing measures such as work from home mandates to help curb the spread of the virus.

Banks are currently providing a targeted approach of financial assistance to customers who need it. According to the Association of Banks in Malaysia, data showed that as at March 26, 2021, financial institutions had received 1.6 million applications for such assistance, with an approval rate of 95%.