



PRESS RELEASE

KSTI and MEASAT Expand CONNECTme NOW High-Speed Satellite Broadband Services in 50 New Locations Across Sabah

Chief Minister YAB Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Hajiji Mohd Noor Launches the Deployment in Kudat

Kuala Lumpur, 12 August 2021 – The Sabah Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (“KSTI”) and MEASAT Global Berhad (“MEASAT”) are expanding the deployment of the CONNECTme NOW high-speed satellite broadband service in 50 new locations across Sabah. In a symbolic installation event held in Kudat today, Sabah Chief Minister YAB Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Hajiji Mohd Noor launched the latest expansion, which will see many more rural communities across Sabah benefiting from faster internet connections. The event was witnessed by YB Datuk Haji Yakub Khan, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation for Sabah.

“The State Government places great importance on ensuring that everyone in Sabah has access to quality internet connectivity, so they will not be left behind in the digital age, where so much education activity, economic opportunities and even essential services have moved online. The implementation of home-based teaching and learning (PdPR), e-commerce and working from home in this pandemic stresses the need to ensure that all members of society can be connected. The digitalised future holds great promises, but we must close the digital gap to ensure everyone has fair access to opportunities and a better quality of life,” said YAB Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Hajiji Mohd Noor, Chief Minister of Sabah.

YAB Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Hajiji said the RM3.5 billion allocation from the Federal Government to improve communications infrastructure in Sabah through the Jalanan Digital Negara (JENDELA) initiative, coupled with the efforts by KSTI and MEASAT to drive rapid solutions in Sabah, such as with CONNECTme NOW services, is key to helping Sabahans.

“Having rolled out the installation of CONNECTme NOW services in several remote locations in Sabah, we have seen promising results, thus we are further expanding the benefits with the latest rollout to 50 new locations across the state. The challenge of providing internet connectivity in Sabah, where some remote communities still do not have 3G or 4G speeds, cannot be overcome overnight, due to the limited radius of terrestrial broadband networks in rural areas and the time it takes to construct a network of telecommunication towers. On the other hand, MEASAT’s CONNECTme NOW service can be set up anywhere in just days, helping to bring high-speed broadband connectivity via satellite to Sabah’s rural residents, so this is an important solution for KSTI,” commented YB Datuk Haji Yakub Khan, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation for Sabah.

YB Datuk Haji Yakub said KSTI will continue working with MEASAT to expand satellite broadband coverage to rural communities in Sabah until terrestrial network coverage is available. In the latest rollout, each new location will receive 300GB of data sponsored by the Sabah State Government.

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“At MEASAT, we are pleased to support KSTI in its initiatives and plans to provide high quality broadband connections across Sabah to bridge the digital divide, by expanding CONNECTme NOW services across the state to ensure that unserved and underserved rural communities will also be able to benefit from internet access. We deeply appreciate the support from KSTI that has enabled us to complete the network expansion despite pandemic challenges,” said Yau Chyong Lim, Chief Operating Officer of MEASAT.

CONNECTme NOW is Malaysia’s premier prepaid satellite broadband WiFi Hotspot service by MEASAT. It provides community-focused satellite broadband services to realise national broadband aspirations. Today, CONNECTme NOW provides over 190,000 broadband connections within unconnected communities residing outside of 4G or terrestrial coverage areas nationwide. CONNECTme NOW employs Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) and High Throughput Satellite (HTS) technology to enable internet connectivity. These VSAT terminals along with WiFi hotspot equipment enable villagers within a 100m radius to receive broadband services. Villagers only pay for what they use with Prepaid Access Code (PAC) vouchers at CONNECTme NOW community WiFi hotspots, with no contract or fixed monthly charges.

MEASAT’s ability to deliver High-Speed Satellite Broadband nationwide makes it a strategic partner to support the Government of Malaysia’s aspirations to achieve 100% 4G coverage in populated areas through the JENDELA initiative. MEASAT has recently invested RM1.2 billion to build its next generation satellite MEASAT-3d, to further improve its capacity to support cost-effective high-speed broadband with up to 100 Mbps speeds in areas without any terrestrial network, to ensure that no Malaysian is left behind in the digital age.

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About MEASAT

MEASAT is a premium supplier of communication and video services to leading broadcasters, Direct-To-Home (DTH) platforms and telecom operators. With capacity across five (5) communication satellites, MEASAT provides services to over 150 countries representing 80% of the world’s population across Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe and Australia.

MEASAT is recognized as the Rural Broadband Service Provider in Malaysia, through its CONNECTme NOW satellite broadband service. CONNECTme NOW is a high-speed WiFi Hotspot service leveraging MEASAT’s innovative satellite broadband system. It is best suited for public use in underserved or unserved areas in Malaysia. CONNECTme NOW users can access the Internet by purchasing Prepaid Access Codes (PAC) from Authorized Agents within their local communities. The PAC is priced cost-effectively in small packages to meet user needs and affordability without contracts or high upfront fees.

Soon, the MEASAT fleet will be further strengthened with the addition of MEASAT-3d at 91.5°E in 2022 which will support cost-effective high-speed broadband with up to 100 Mbps speeds in areas without any terrestrial network throughout Malaysia; increase video distribution capacity across the Asia Pacific region, and provide unrivalled in-orbit satellite redundancy for the region. For more information, please visit www.measat.com / www.connectmenow.my

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