



18 MAY, 2022

Ferrotec to build RM500m factory in Malaysia

The Sun, Malaysia

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SAN FRANCISCO: Ferrotec (USA) Corporation has committed more than RM500 million in new investment in Malaysia to set up its first manufacturing facility in Southeast Asia.

Spanning an 8.13-hectare site that will include a 800,000 square feet manufacturing plant in Kulim Hi-Tech Park, construction of the facility is expected to begin in the next few weeks.

Senior Minister and Minister of International Trade and Industry Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali said the global supplier of materials, components, precision systems, and a worldwide leader in quartz material fabrication for the semiconductor industry, also committed to generate between 250 and 500 high-skilled jobs for Malaysians.

"They are also committed to assisting small and medium enterprises (SME) in Malaysia in building the supply chain and ecosystem in the semiconductor industry.

"This is a very positive development where the company not only wants to bring investment into Malaysia, but wants to see Malaysia continue to thrive in new technologies by involving local companies, especially SME," he told Bernama and TV3 after holding a meeting with Ferrotec CEO Eiji Miyanaga here on Monday.

Azmin suggested that Ferrotec train Malaysian workers, especially those based in the US or Japan, to coach Malaysian students or professionals residing in the two countries.

Apart from Ferrotec, Azmin also met with US leading solar tracker company Nextracker Inc COO and co-founder Marco Miller. Azmin said Nextracker will strive to enhance products from Malaysia to penetrate not only the US market, but also globally.

Speaking to Bernama after meeting Azmin, Miyanaga said the company has nearly 40



Azmin (centre) and Malaysian Investment Development Authority CEO Datuk Arham Abdul Rahman (right) meeting with Ferrotec (USA) senior executives in San Francisco on Monday. – **BERNAMAPIX**

factories globally, and the facility in Malaysia will be its first large platform manufacturing site outside Japan, China and the US.

"We choose Malaysia because Southeast Asia, including Malaysia, has become a focal point of supply chain for the industry. We feel compelled to invest Southeast Asia," he said.

He said Ferrotec plans to employ between 250 and 500 local talent over the next three years, and its goal is to let the facility ran and operated by locals.

"We want to invest in people, and we understand that it (the process) is going to take some time, therefore, for the initial stage, we will bring in expats for a very short period of time to transfer the technology and train

the locals," he said.

Nextracker's Miller said the company is currently doing US\$100 million (RM438 million) worth of business with two Malaysian companies, and is planning to expand the business in the coming years and make Malaysia a key manufacturing partner.

"We choose Malaysia for its geographical location and dedicated highly skilled workforce which manufacture our high-tech products," he said.

He said Nextracker is expected to see its Malaysian partners double the workforce from the current 400 employees in the near future to cater to its growing business. – Bernama



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SUMMARIES

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