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KUALA LUMPUR: The Ministry of Finance (MoF), in collaboration with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (Mosti) and Cradle Fund Sdn Bhd (Cradle), has announced the successful selection of eight government-linked companies (GLCs) for the ‘Bengkel Inovasi GLC’ (BIG) programme.

This milestone marks the transition of BIG from the design phase to execution, following its launch in March this year.

A matching grant of up to RM2 million has been awarded to each GLC, amounting to a total of RM10.7 million.

The selected GLCs and their projects include Bank Islam, which is using AI and behavioural technology to enhance micro, small, and medium enterprise (MSME) financing and improve financial literacy through a digital finance platform; CelcomDigi, which is leveraging 5G, AI, and robotics to strengthen logistics and support a resilient digital economy; EDOTCO, which is developing a self-service analytics marketplace while optimising telecom infrastructure utilisation; Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG) is integrating AI for real-time asset tracking to streamline turnaround operations and improve passenger experience; Sime Darby Property is employing AI for real-time safety monitoring and multilingual alerts to enforce workplace safety; S P Setia aims to enable broader homeownership by providing seamless access to affordable, high-quality housing through technology;

Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) is repurposing electric vehicle batteries for energy storage and creating scam-resistant digital platforms to protect and educate consumers, and lastly; Cenviro is producing sustainable pavers using advanced technologies to reduce environmental and landfill impact.

These GLCs are selected for their innovative applications of digital and AI technologies, demonstrating strong potential to improve operational efficiency, support growth, and scale across industries.

Each company also showcases robust partnerships with local and global start-ups, reflecting the collaborative ethos of the BIG programme.

“Cradle is proud to play a central role in designing and delivering BIG alongside MoF, Mosti and our ecosystem partners, activating a bold new model of corporate-startup collaboration,” said Cradle group chief executive officer Norman Matthieu Vanhaecke.

“These GLCs are stepping up as national innovation champions while viewing innovation not as a peripheral activity, but as a core driver of resilience and growth.

“We look forward to supporting them as they move into co-creation and pilot stages with start-ups.”

Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Chang Lih Kang hailed the BIG as exemplifying a whole-of-government approach to bridging start-ups and corporates for accelerated tech adoption.