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## Opcom aims to be part of the National Connectivity Plan

by KEVIN WONG

OPCOM Holdings Bhd plans to position itself within Tenaga Nasional Bhd's (TNB) new venture into telecommunications high-speed broadband.

Opcom chairman and CEO Tan Sri Mokhzani Mahathir said the company is interested to be a party to TNB's recently announced venture in the fibre communications market.

"We would like to hear more about where we can play a role in all of these things.

"Whatever they come up with, we are an established fibre optic manufacturer in Malaysia.

"We will try to participate in any request for proposals that come out from our clients," he told reporters after the group's AGM in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Last week, TNB initiated a pilot project in Jasin, Melaka, to assess the technical, safety and commercial viability of using its electrical infrastructure for the government's National Connectivity Plan, as well as an important catalyst towards the country's digital economy.

The pilot project is targeted to be completed by the end of the year and will cover 1,100 out of 4,300 homes in three areas in Jasin including Taman Merbau, Taman Maju and Felda Kemendor.

As for Opcom's future, Mokhzani said the group remains optimistic for new opportunities despite the challenging time that is currently faced by the telecommunications industry.

"Technology is always changing for the better, but that also means it is faster and has wider access, but with lower price expectations from

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*Pic by Muhd Amin Naharul*

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the end users, in line with what the new Pakatan Harapan government has been discussing.

“So, we will work as hard as we can to ensure that we can improve efficiency, increase the kind of pro-

ducts that we put out in the market and retain our position as a smart partner to the telecommunications industry,” he said.

Over the last few months, the new government has urged the telecommunications industry to improve its offerings, services and prices.

Mokhzani said Opcom has to go along with the plan as it is part of the industry’s supply chain.

“It will be a challenging time moving forward, however, I believe the main industry players will create more business opportunities for everyone as long they can price themselves competitively,” he said yesterday.

In terms of Opcom’s orderbook, Mokhzani said it currently stands at over RM100 million, which is expected to last the company until the middle of 2019.