

Undisputed Leader

*From a small set up 20 years ago,
the AKN Group is now going places,
garnering several awards along the way.*

LIKE most businesses, AKN Technology started off two decades ago as a small set-up. Today, it has the proud distinction of being one of the major international players in the semi-conductor industry.

Its story is not exactly that of from rags to riches, but sheer dedication, self-belief, perseverance and uncanny ability to spot business potentials have placed the group on the top portion of the pile of success Malaysian companies.



Combining all these features, and the boldness in making precise business decisions and investments, the AKN Group now boasts an impressive workforce of over 2,000 people, 23 offices in eight countries and over 100 products and services.

Spearheaded by its personable Executive Chairman, Dato' Ahmad Kabeer Nagoor, the AKN Group is currently listed on the main board of the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange (KLSE) with a market capitalisation exceeding RM500 million.

In its magnificent stable are AKN Technology (AKN Tech) which dabbles in semi-conductor, AKNMTEch which is an enabler for the provision of Mobile Messaging Solution for various types of business, SCICOM - a leader in offshore Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) with specialist experience in customer contact management, SiRes Labs Sdn Bhd which designs and manufactures integrated circuits for the optical data communications and networking market, MEMSTECH which is an independent MEMS foundry providing services for wafer fabrication, assembly and tests; and International Knowledge System (IKS) and AWC.

Its success factors include its passion to succeed, commitment to providing value systems, quick and accurate identification of opportunities, the First Mover Advantage and MNCs.

It is little wonder that the group has emerged as the country's leading Malaysian trans-national company.

The group has also scored numerous firsts, besides its stable of companies frequently receiving numerous awards of excellence for its innovations and services.

The first of its MSC-Status companies, AKNMTEch, or short for AKN Messaging Technologies Berhad, for example, commenced operations in 2000 as Malaysia's first SMS content provider.

Its business development experienced a meteoric rise and the company was listed on the MESDAQ in 2003 – just three years after being set up – with market capitalisation of US\$87 million.

It is a complete one-stop mobile solutions and content provider with an Asia-Pacific footprint with bases in various countries including Hong Kong, China, Thailand, Singapore, Pakistan and recently, Indonesia.



Today, it also provides middleware connectivity for corporations such as HSBC and AIA.

The group's other MSC-Status company, MEMSTECH, or short for MEMS Technology Berhad, also holds the proud record of being the only MEMS (micro-electro mechanical systems) company in the region.

Its story started in 2001 when the AKN Group funded a group of Americans doing a management buy-out of a MEMS facility in Singapore, which was an operating unit of a Fortune 500 company.

It now has two factories, including a back-end micro-etching fab in Singapore. The group is in the midst of moving the MEMS packaging factory to Malaysia while the fab will remain in Singapore.

The company is also in talks with the Malaysian authorities, including the Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC), to discuss the possibility of setting up an MEMS R&D centre in Malaysia.

This epitomises its great belief in MEMS, which it describes as the "hottest segment in semi-conductor today."

It is also seeking some grants to carry out cutting-edge technology R&D. To date, it has filed 13 patents, of which one has been granted.

This is in line with its rich tradition of investing in R&D to produce ground-breaking products and innovations.

Its SiRes Labs Sdn Bhd, for example, scooped the Best of R&D award in the 4th MSC-APICTA Awards 2003 for producing the optical communications and networking industry's first integrated transmitter (Tx) and receiver (Rx) constructed on a single chip.

The chip provides high performance, low noise, low jitter and highly integrated single-channel transceiver, and is used in Short Reach and Very Short Reach (VSR) CWDM optical communications applications.

The biggest benefits are its low power consumption, and reduced cross-talk and noise coupling. These result in smaller and lower costs systems that are also more efficient to use.

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