

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GEORGE KENT EMBARKS ON FIRST COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE WITH UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SARAWAK

To enhance its smart home system with a cloud-based smart water management

SIBU, SARAWAK, 21 MAY 2024 – George Kent (Malaysia) Berhad (“George Kent”), today announced that it has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (“MOA”) with University of Technology Sarawak (“UTS”), to provide strong support for the successful implementation of UTS’s Smart Home R&D initiative, enhancing its smart home system with a cloud-based smart water management system. UTS had, earlier this year, obtained the approval to commence this smart home initiative which is expected to span 3 years.

The signing of the MOA took place at the Senate Room, University of Technology Sarawak in Sibu, Sarawak. Mr Teoh Cy Kuan, Chief Operations Officer – Metering & Engineering of George Kent signed on behalf of George Kent, while UTS was represented by its Vice Chancellor, Prof. Datuk Dr Khairuddin Ab Hamid.

Under the MOA, George Kent will provide its comprehensive Automatic Meter Reading (“AMR”) solution, which includes smart water meters, specifically the GKMV30 DN15 5/3 brass water meter, together with meter interface units. This solution encompasses critical functionalities, including data retrieval, logging, real-time monitoring, anomaly detection and alarm notifications, all in hardware form.

This strategic partnership with UTS extends beyond technical expertise. Over a three-year R&D project, George Kent will offer technical assistance to UTS, fostering knowledge exchange and ensuring research findings align with industry standards. This collaboration has the potential to lead to co-authored publications, further solidifying the partnership and advancing knowledge in the field of smart metering solutions.

To recap, on 7 June 2023, George Kent signed a memorandum of understanding with UTS to foster academic and industrial collaboration with a primary focus on enhancing human capital development and addressing societal challenges through joint educational and research endeavours.

George Kent's Chairman, Tan Sri Dato' Tan Kay Hock said, "We are thrilled to embark on this first collaborative initiative with UTS. At George Kent, we are deeply committed to advancing technological innovations that address pressing societal needs. Our partnership with UTS marks a significant step forward in our mission to improve smart water management systems."

He added, "Through this MOA, we are pooling our resources and expertise to drive forward research and development in the realm of smart homes. UTS's dedication to push the boundaries of knowledge aligns perfectly with our vision for pioneering advancements in smart home technologies. By combining our industry experience with UTS's academic expertise, we are confident in our ability to provide cutting-edge solutions that not only enhance efficiency but also contribute to sustainable water conservation efforts in Sarawak to improve the well-being of the Sarawak community.

Tan Sri Dato' Tan Kay Hock further added, "This partnership signifies George Kent's commitment to establishing a robust presence in Sarawak. By actively supporting UTS's Smart Home project with hardware, technical expertise, and technical support, George Kent demonstrates its dedication to technological advancement, the well-being of the Sarawak community, and the region's long-term economic growth. George Kent recognises the immense potential of Sarawak and views this collaboration as a springboard for fostering a mutually beneficial relationship. The company is committed to working alongside local stakeholders to identify and address Sarawak's specific needs, not just in the realm of smart water management but also in other relevant areas of engineering and technology."

Meanwhile, Vice Chancellor of UTS, Prof. Datuk Dr Khairuddin Ab Hamid said, "UTS is delighted to formalise this partnership with George Kent through the signing of the MOA. As a leading institution in technological education and research, we are constantly seeking opportunities to leverage our expertise for the betterment of society. The Smart Home R&D initiative, with a particular focus on smart water management, represents a crucial area where our collective efforts can make a significant difference.

At UTS, we are deeply committed to nurturing partnerships that cultivate innovation and knowledge exchange. Our collaboration with George Kent signifies a shared commitment to advance the frontier of smart home technologies, with a clear emphasis on sustainability and efficiency. This partnership exemplifies UTS's dedication to interdisciplinary collaboration and the mission to contribute positively to the advancement of society.”



From left to right:

1. Mr Yap Cheng Leung 叶振梁 (General Manager, Meters from George Kent)
2. Mr C.K. Teoh 张诗权 (Chief Operations Officer from George Kent)
3. YBhg Professor Datuk Dr. Khairuddin Ab Hamid (Vice Chancellor / President from UTS)
4. Professor Ir. Ts. Dr. Mohd Sharil Osman (Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) from UTS)

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About George Kent (Malaysia) Berhad

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George Kent is an established engineering and metering company in the water infrastructure, rail transportation and hospital construction industries. The Company specialises in the turnkey construction of water infrastructure and hospital projects, system works for rail transportation, and operation and maintenance of water treatment facilities.

Known for proven engineering excellence, George Kent has a strong track record of successfully completing high-value and technology-critical projects. The Company also manufactures and supplies water metering products and solutions for household, industrial and plant use. It operates one of the largest hot brass-forging plants in Southeast Asia for the production of internationally certified water meters, and supplies to water authorities in Malaysia and in the ASEAN region.

For more information, please visit www.georgekent.net.

About University of Technology Sarawak (UTS)

University of Technology Sarawak is an institution of higher learning wholly owned by the Sarawak state government through Sarawak Foundation, established and registered in Malaysia under the Private Higher Educational Institutions Act 1996 and managed by Edusar Resources Sdn Bhd.

UTS is committed to facilitate students' access to affordable world-class university education that nurtures creative and entrepreneurial leaders through a broad education in science and technology while combining the career benefits of an applied approach for industry-related research and career opportunities. The post-modernist neo-futuristic architectural style campus, is unique to Sibu and Sarawak, creating the right ambience and conducive environment to pursue Sarawak's economic agenda. UTS was then and until now marked as a symbol of hope for a better future to the community of Central Sarawak, in particular Sibu, which has transformed into one of the important logistic and education hubs in Sarawak.

Currently, UTS offers 36 academic programmes under six schools. 21 academic programmes have been awarded full accreditation.

Issued by: Imej Jiwa Communications Sdn. Bhd. on behalf of George Kent (Malaysia) Berhad

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