



DEPA SIGNS OFFICIAL M.O.U. WITH SINGAPORE'S LEADERS IN IOT INNOVATION TO KICKSTART DIGITAL PARK & IOT INSTITUTE UNDER 'THAILAND 4.0' POLICY

February 2019, Thailand – Under the leadership of Dr. Nuttapon Nimmanphatcharin, President/CEO of [Digital Economy Promotion Agency](#) (depa), this project is piloted by Dr. Passakon Prathombutr, Deputy Director of the Digital Economy Promotion Agency (depa) and Dr. Monsak Socharoentum, Director IoT and Digital Innovation Institute. The Digital Economic Promotion Agency (depa) under the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society has officially signed MOU with Singapore giants [Willowmore](#), [Gobi Partners](#), [Unabiz](#), and [Ascent Solutions](#) in Singapore on February 18-20, 2019. The four companies, all leaders in IoT Platforms and Solutions, as well as Early Start up and Growth Investments within ASEAN, are set to exchange technical knowledge, partnership and know-hows with depa to support the [Digital Park Thailand and IoT Institute](#) under the 'Thailand 4.0' policy.

Dr. Passakon Prathombutr, Deputy Director of the Digital Economy Promotion Agency (depa) comments, "The official purpose of the Singapore trip is to sign, initiate the partnership MOU, and kick start on our government's 'Thailand 4.0' policy for Digital Park and the IoT Institute. Depa and our MOU partners has met to exchange knowledge in both academic and technical aspects related to new IoT technologies in order further prepare for Thailand's economic development as well as stimulates foreign investments. Our partnership will strengthens and enhances Thailand's resources and competitiveness of IoT within the ASEAN market and consequently, these IoT innovations will improve the quality of life and conveniences for Thai people."

Mr. Basil Byrne, Managing Director of Willowmore Singapore PTE Ltd -an IoT enterprise on smart lock- commented on the MOU partnership, "As an industry leader in enterprise-grade smart padlock, smart cabinet locks, and the pioneer in world's first-ever portable Sigfox-Bluetooth gateway SigWAV, Willowmore is all about developing brilliant innovations and providing awesome solutions, from state-of-the-art access control, security systems technology, and IOT gateways. Our IoT smart locks come equipped with artificial intelligence technology on secure cloud platform, which allows the prevention of theft and security against personal loss. This innovation revolutionized the lock industry and eliminates traditional usage of traditional keys or present day's issue of illegal key duplication. Authorized personnel with granted virtual key access can log into the application and operate the virtual key offline, in case of no network or wifi connection. The application is available for download on Android & iOS platforms. We are extremely honored to be involved with depa to develop and promote the IoT innovation industry with Digital Innovation Institute within 'Digital Park Thailand'. We look forward to our Thailand expansion and sincerely hopes our leading technology will be beneficial to both Thais and foreigners alike."

Depa's MOU partner Mr. Dan Chong, Chief Operating Officer of Gobi Partners, commented, "Gobi Partners is Asia's leading venture capital firm in early-stage and growth stage investments. Incorporated in 2002, Gobi Partners' has over \$1.1 Billion USD in Assets Under Management [AUM] in 10 funds and 9 countries from China to Southeast Asia with ASEAN headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and now a local office in Bangkok, Thailand. Gobi Partners has long worked with government agencies from the Singapore Media Development Authority ["MDA"] and MAVCAP which is the Malaysian Venture Capital Fund formed by the Malaysian Government. We are happy to officially become DEPA under the Ministry of Digital Economy & Society's partner to bolster the Digital Start Up Ecosystem and IoT Industry in Thailand."

Mr. Dan continued, "Gobi Partners, in strategic collaboration and partnership with depa, will select and invest in a series of in start-up companies in industries such as Startup, AI, Data Analytics, and IoT, as part of the 'depa startup funds' and/ or a Matching Fund developed together. Given this, Gobi Partners along with depa will lend our direct expertise in startup funding and funding initiatives in various governments and countries to further develop the Start Up Funds made available for the ecosystem."



In addition to the above, Unabiz is an integrated network solutions service company empowering massive IoT in Asia. It is also a Sigfox operator in Singapore and Taiwan. An inventor and developer of their own IoT Sensor, Unabiz is known to providing complete network services in IoT innovations. It is also a main partner to major wireless networks in France, with services having arrived in Taiwan and Singapore. Unabiz recognized the importance of Thailand being ASEAN's trade market center, fully equipped with basic infrastructure and the ability to pave way for 5G wireless technology innovations that will occur in the future. With the current MOU partnership with depa, Unabiz aims to open an R&D & Training center to provide their IoT Sensor services to major partners and the IoT Ecosystem in Thailand.

Ascent Solutions™, a Singapore-based IoT company, provide services in various industries such as warehouses, logistics, freight forwarding, intelligent transportation, and e-passport tools with state-of-the-art technologies such as as NB-IoT, Satcom, GPRS, and Active and Passive RFID. An expert in security innovations, Managing Director Mr. CK Lim expanded Ascent Solutions network span globally in countries such as Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, China and ASEAN. Ascent Solutions service clients in both public and private sector; also being able to cater to Small-Medium-Enterprises (SMEs) in Kenya, Tanzania, Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, and the Ministry of Defense Singapore. The partnership between depa and Ascent Solutions aim to develop and expand their innovative technologies and provide their solutions to the Digital Park and IoT Institute Partners in the Eastern Special Development Zone (EEC) to increase the potential customer base of various industries with advanced technology that provides solutions and conveniences in transportation in local and abroad.

Concisely, the official depa MOU signing with the four major companies in Singapore is considerably a continuing progress of integrated development and reinforces the growth of Thailand's digital economy to international standards as part of 'Thailand 4.0' policy. Given Thailand's goals to enhance digital technology, developing personnel capabilities through partnerships with leading Singapore companies, and its pursuit to exchanging knowledge with partners from many countries, 'Thailand 4.0' policy will be a kick starter to the future generation of Thai digital business operators.
