

World's largest stem cell plant

MoU signed to set it up in Pahang by 2011

KUALA LUMPUR: Pahang Technology Resources Sdn Bhd (PTR), a state government unit has teamed up with BCRO Stem Cell Xenotransplantation Sdn Bhd to jointly build the world's largest stem cell manufacturing plant on 200 acres in Janda Baik, Pahang by 2011.

Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob said it would take about three years for the plant to reach commercial production.

"We believe BCRO can achieve RM1bil turnover by end-2011," he said after the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between PTR and BCRO yesterday.

Under the MoU, BCRO will provide the funds and technical expertise to build the plant, while PTR will supply the land.

BCRO executive director Amir Ismail said: "We will build, manage and run the plant that will be similar in operations but much bigger than the original stem cell plant in Slovakia."

He said fetal stem cells were taken



Amir Ismail (left) exchanging documents with PTR deputy chairman Datuk Mohd Sharkar Shamsudin. With them are Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob (second from left) and Pahang State Secretary Datuk Muhammad Safian Ismail.

from farmed rabbits that were certified and bred especially for the treatment of various human disorders.

BCRO is 80% Malaysian-owned and the balance owned by foreigners.

Amir said the initial phase of developing the plant would cost RM280mil and further funds would be required

as the plant approached full operation and commercialisation in 2011.

"PTR will get a cut of the profits from the stem cell business," he said, adding that revenue would come from stem cell transplants and treatment of various diseases, especially those that are chromosome-related.