



KEMENTERIAN SAINS,
TEKNOLOGI DAN INOVASI
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

PRESS RELEASE

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

NTIS WINS GOLD AT 2026 ASIA-PACIFIC STEVIE® AWARDS, SHOWCASING MALAYSIA'S NATIONAL INNOVATION SANDBOX SUCCESS

KUALA LUMPUR, 5 MAY 2026 –In a milestone achievement that reinforces Malaysia's standing as a leading hub for technological advancement, the National Technology and Innovation Sandbox (NTIS) Programme has **secured the Gold Stevie® Award for Innovation in Technology Management, Planning & Implementation (Government) at the 13th Annual Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards, held on 17 April 2026 in Macau.**

This recognition highlights a significant shift in Malaysia's approach to economic development, moving beyond traditional frameworks to create a dynamic "living lab" environment through NTIS. By bridging the gap between innovative concepts and market readiness, NTIS has successfully reduced barriers to entry for entrepreneurs, ensuring that home-grown technology delivers tangible benefits to the nation's industry and its citizens.

Driving Meaningful Economic Impact

Since its inception in 2020, NTIS which is spearheaded by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) with Malaysian Research Accelerator for Technology and Innovation (MRANTI) as the lead secretariat, has matured from a strategic pilot into a cornerstone of Malaysia's innovation ecosystem.

The programme provides a structured platform for researchers and startups to validate high-growth technologies, such as autonomous systems and advanced robotics, ensuring they are regulatory-compliant and commercially viable.



Under the 12th Malaysian Plan (RMKe-12), the NTIS programme has delivered substantial results:

- **Commercialisation Success:** Facilitated over **RM 171.8 million** in total commercialisation value.
- **Strategic Investment:** Distributed **RM 142.2 million** in funding to support 229 high-impact projects.
- **Talent Development:** Catalysed the creation of **333 high-income jobs**, strengthening the nation's technical workforce.
- **Global Market Reach:** Generated **RM 122.8 million** in export value through 14 focused international projects.
- **Intellectual Property Growth:** Managed a robust portfolio of **66 Intellectual Properties (IPs)**, with 36 new IPs filed to safeguard Malaysian innovation.

The Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, YB Datuk Chang Lih Kang said "This recognition reflects the progress we have made in strengthening Malaysia's innovation ecosystem through NTIS.

What is important is that we are no longer focused on developing technology only, but on ensuring that these innovations are adopted, commercialised, and able to deliver real impact to the economy and the rakyat.

Moving forward, under the RMK13, our focus will be to scale these efforts further, particularly in accelerating market adoption and expanding the global presence of Malaysian technologies." said Chang.

Ashran Dato' Ghazi, the Chief Executive Officer of MRANTI and the Lead Secretariat of NTIS Programme said "Winning the Gold Stevie® Award is a testament to Malaysia's unwavering commitment to becoming a high-tech, high-income nation.

This recognition validates our efforts at MRANTI to break the barriers between R&D and commercial success, ensuring our brightest innovators have the support they need to transform the global stage."

"This award belongs to the entire Malaysian innovation ecosystem. By working alongside regulators, industry partners, and government agencies, NTIS has proven that a collaborative 'living lab' approach can yield extraordinary economic results. We are proud to see our national initiatives recognised as a gold standard for innovation management across the Asia-Pacific." he added.

The success of NTIS is anchored in a strong, collaborative multi-agency framework. While MRANTI serves as the lead secretariat, the programme's accomplishments are collectively driven by its strategic partners, Malaysian Technology Development Corporation (MTDC) as the funding partner, alongside MIMOS and Futurise as regulatory and evaluation secretariats, each playing a critical role in coordinating the national innovation ecosystem and advancing the growth of local innovators.

The 2026 Asia-Pacific Stevie® Awards evaluated over 1,000 nominations from 29 markets, making this year's competition one of the most rigorous to date. In securing the Gold Stevie® Award, the NTIS programme distinguished itself from some of the region's most prominent industrial and technological players.

NTIS Gold's win underscores the global standard of Malaysia's technology sandboxing framework when compared against top-tier corporate and regional innovations.

The Panel of Judges praised the programme as an "outstanding government-led initiative" and a "bold, well-run project." One judge noted that NTIS "sets a new benchmark for strategic technology planning" by successfully helping local inventors bridge the 'valley of death' between R&D and commercialisation. Another remarked that the "whole-of-nation ecosystem" effectively removes regulatory barriers while achieving measurable economic outcomes on a national scale.

The Next Phase: Deepening Global Impact

As NTIS enters its next chapter, the focus has shifted toward "Deepening Impact" through the Global Testbed & Sandbox Alliance (GTSA). By aligning with international innovation ecosystems, NTIS is facilitating cross-border collaboration and regulatory harmonisation.

This initiative allows Malaysian innovators to scale their solutions across ASEAN and global markets with greater efficiency. “The 13th Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards saw an outstanding level of participation and excellence,” said Maggie Miller, President of the Stevie Awards. “This year’s winners have demonstrated remarkable innovation, creativity, and resilience.”

#END#

Prepared by:

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

5 MAY 2026

5.00 PM