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MALAYSIA LAUNCHES BIG 2.0 WITH RM15 MILLION TO SCALE CORPORATE INNOVATION AND ACCELERATE ADOPTION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES

KUALA LUMPUR, 29 JANUARY 2026 – The BIG Programme (BIG 2.0), previously known as Bengkel Inovasi GLC, was launched today as a national corporate innovation programme aimed at accelerating the adoption of new technologies and strengthening competitiveness across corporate Malaysia.

Taking a **whole-of-nation approach**, BIG 2.0 is jointly led by the Ministry of Finance (MOF) and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), and delivered by Cradle Fund Sdn Bhd. The programme is supported by an allocation of **RM15 million Belanjawan 2026**, with each selected company eligible for a **matching grant of up to RM2 million** to support solution development, validation and real-world implementation in partnership with startups.

The programme was launched at The BIG Corporate Innovation Forum in Kuala Lumpur, bringing together senior leaders from Government-Linked Companies (GLCs), Public-Listed Companies (PLCs), MOF Incorporated companies, policymakers and innovation partners.

BIG 2.0 expands the programme from its initial GLC cohort to a broader group of Malaysian corporates, reflecting the Government's intent to accelerate innovation adoption across the wider economy. This expansion builds on progress under BIG 1.0, where eight (8) GLCs worked with startups to develop and deploy solutions that have entered live operations, secured paying customers or progressed into scaling phases. Building on these outcomes, BIG 2.0 offers a 12-month structured pathway from problem definition to implementation, supported by matching grants and access to Cradle's innovation ecosystem. *[Further details on BIG 1.0 grant recipients and development tracks are provided in Appendices 1 and 2.]*

YB Senator Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan, Minister of Finance II highlighted the programme's potential to scale corporate innovation, “BIG began as a deliberate test with GLCs - to see whether Malaysian corporates could innovate faster with clearer ownership and accountability. The results gave us confidence. With BIG 2.0, we are scaling this platform to corporate Malaysia to build innovation as a core capability and translate it into real economic value.”

YB Tuan Chang Lih Kang, Minister of MOSTI, stated that “Through the programme, MOSTI is strengthening how corporates adopt advanced and frontier technologies, while creating faster and clearer market access for startups. By focusing on priority areas such as AI, advanced manufacturing, digital infrastructure and sustainability, the programme accelerates technology commercialisation and support our goal of building

competitive Malaysian innovators aligned with national science, technology and innovation priorities.”

Norman Matthieu Vanhaecke, Group Chief Executive Officer of Cradle, said the programme connects real corporate demand with high-potential innovators, “The BIG Programme turns corporate demand into real market access for startups. As the focal agency for early-stage startups, Cradle connects corporates with high-potential founders, enabling faster piloting, co-development and commercialisation.”

The forum also featured discussions on AI’s role as a catalyst for corporate innovation, highlighting how emerging technologies are reshaping productivity, decision-making and competitive advantage. Aligned with the Ekonomi MADANI framework, the Malaysia Startup Ecosystem Roadmap (SUPER) 2021–2030 and the KL20 Action Plan, BIG 2.0 strengthens corporate-led innovation, accelerates startup commercialisation and supports the scaling of high-quality enterprises, reinforcing Malaysia’s ambition to position itself among the world’s top 20 startup ecosystems by 2030.

BIG 2.0 will be delivered through three cohorts beginning February 2026, with applications opening every three months. GLCs, PLCs and MOF Incorporated companies interested in participating may contact the programme team at big@cradle.com.my.

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About Cradle Fund Sdn Bhd

Cradle Fund Sdn. Bhd. (Cradle) is Malaysia's focal agency for early-stage startups, operating under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI). Since its establishment in 2003 under the Ministry of Finance (MOF), Cradle has funded over 1,200 tech startups, achieving the highest commercialisation rate among government grants. Cradle develops and operates MYStartup, Malaysia's single window platform for startup funding, capacity building advisory, and market access. It manages CIP Spark and CIP Sprint, grant programmes supporting early-stage idea development and commercialisation. Beyond Malaysia, Cradle spearheads the Startup ASEAN platform connecting and empowering startups across the region. As a key driver of Malaysia's technology and innovation startup ecosystem, Cradle continues to foster innovation and entrepreneurship, strengthening Malaysia's position as a regional startup hub.

For more information, visit www.cradle.com.my

About The BIG Programme

The BIG Programme is an initiative with a RM15 million allocation under Belanjawan 2025, aimed at embedding innovation in corporate Malaysia and driving high-impact collaborations between GLCs and startups. It is a strategic step in advancing Malaysia's economic reform agenda to "Raise the Ceiling" under the GEAR-uP initiative, in alignment with the Madani Economy framework.

Of the total RM15 million, RM10 million is allocated as matching grants to support two core tracks: the Venture Client Track, where GLCs pilot startup innovations to enhance operations; and the Venture Co-Creation Track, where GLCs co-develop new solutions with startups and venture builders. Another RM3 million in matching grants is dedicated for startups at the Proof-of-Concept (POC) stage. Both tracks are supported by expert facilitation and mentorship to accelerate market-ready outcomes and strengthen Malaysia's economic competitiveness.

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APPENDIX 1: LIST OF EIGHT (8) WINNING GLCS FROM BIG 1.0

No.	Organisations	Projects
1.	Bank Islam	Shariah-compliant fintech platform to uplift Malaysia's MSMEs.
2.	CelcomDigi	Building a system that capitalises on their network for smart warehousing using IoT and robotics.
3.	Cenviro	Repurposing end-of-life scheduled waste materials currently being processed to develop sustainable bricks.
4.	EDOTCO	Increasing utilisation of its assets and data generation to potentially enhance industry efficiency and contribute to Malaysia's digital economy.
5.	Malaysia Aviation Group	AI-Vision Airport Turnaround Management Solution to enhance On-Time Performance.
6.	Sime Darby Property	Leveraging AI and digital tools to enhance construction site safety and operational efficiency.
7.	S P Setia	Leveraging AI to enhance home ownership experience and construction quality.
8.	Tenaga Nasional Berhad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a modular BESS system for EV batteries. AI-powered defence system against scammers.

APPENDIX 2: BIG 2.0 DEVELOPMENT TRACKS

BIG 2.0 will be delivered through two development tracks designed to support different corporate innovation needs, risk appetites and strategic objectives. Both tracks are implemented over a 12-month period and supported by matching grants of up to RM2.0 million per company.

Track 1: Corporate–Startup Partnership

This track enables corporates to pilot and integrate market-ready solutions developed by startups. It is suited for companies seeking faster deployment with lower execution risk, where solutions already exist but require validation, adaptation or scaling within corporate operations.

Participating corporates work with selected startups through structured problem definition, solution matching, pilot development and real-world implementation, with a focus on operational improvement, productivity gains and commercial viability.

Track 2: Corporate Co-Development

This track supports the co-development of new products, services or solutions, where corporates take a more active role in shaping innovation outcomes. It is suited for strategic problem statements that require deeper collaboration, longer development timelines or the creation of differentiated capabilities.

Corporate teams work alongside startups to design, build and test solutions, with the objective of creating scalable offerings that can be deployed across business units or developed into longer-term commercial ventures.

