

Texchem brings a touch of scientific Acumen to Penang

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TRB chairman and chief executive officer Tan Sri Fumihiko Konishi yesterday said although satellite laboratories are being planned by the company in cities like Singapore and Bangkok, Penang will continue to be the focus for continued investments. "What we intend to do at offsite laboratories later would be considered primitive analysis. Our plan is to concentrate on investments in expanding the Acumen laboratories in Penang and bringing in more expensive machines," he said after the launch of the company at Hotel Equatorial Penang. Acumen's services include an extensive range of analytical testing and consultancy services in fields like the environment, chemistry and microbiology. Its clients range from those in the electronics industry and food industries and they are scattered in Penang, the Klang Valley and Japan. "We have invested RM3 million in Acumen since we began operations in February this year," Konishi said. "We are looking to expand by ploughing in a further RM7 million over the next two years." Acumen Scientific's managing director Ridzuan Ismail said the analytical testing and consultancy service market in Malaysia is estimated at RM300 million. "The northern region commands a 9 per cent market share, while the Klang Valley has about 60 per cent of this business," he said.

Ridzuan said the company hopes to zoom in to serve the Japanese market where analysis costs are comparatively higher than they are in Malaysia. Other markets being tapped into include the southern region.