

## Texchem unit to invest another RM7m

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GEORGE TOWN: Following overwhelming demand for its one-stop analysis solutions service, Texchem Resources Bhd subsidiary Acumen Scientific Sdn Bhd, which started services in February, will invest another RM7 million over the next two years to expand its services and also buy state-of-the-art machines.

Texchem chairman and CEO Tan Sri Fumihiko Konishi said to date, RM3 million had been invested and in five years, Acumen could contribute 10% towards the group's profits.

Speaking at the launch of Acumen by Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng, Konishi said the centre had received tremendous response and could not cope with demand for its services, with its customers not only based in Malaysia but also Japan.

"It is much cheaper for these Japanese companies to send their samples here via courier for testing instead of doing it there. Our customers include electronic companies and also food processing industries in Penang.

"We will also set up satellite offices in the Klang Valley, Singapore and Bangkok but the main centre will be here in Penang. We also want to tap into the Asean market which is huge. We believe our market share can be huge and we have room to grow," Konishi added.

Acumen offers an extensive range of analytical testing and consultancy services in the fields of environment, chemistry, microbiology including food testing and green product testing.

Acumen managing director Ridzuan Ismail said it was operating in a RM300 million market in Malaysia and the market in Penang was only 9% of it, while the central region took up 61%.

"The other competitors are mostly small scale as we have the backing of the Texchem Group to support our services and our laboratory is big compared to what the others have to offer.

"There are some strong players, namely multinational companies in the Klang Valley and also those in Singapore who have been servicing customers in Johor Bahru and also the Klang Valley, and we hope to tap into this market," he added.

Ridzuan said Acumen also provided free consultancy services besides the laboratory analysis solutions.