

Ernst & Young, Middle East to set up Software ODC and Back Office Operations in Technopark, Trivandrum

Thiruvananthapuram, October 4th, 2002 – Ernst & Young, one of the world's leading professional services organizations has decided to choose India's finest technology park – Kerala's Technopark to be the home for its first offshore software development center in India.

Ernst & Young Middle East, (E&Y ME), will set up in the Technopark its center initially to develop key software to automate the internal procedures followed by the company for its 17 offices across 12 Middle East countries. E&Y ME currently employs over 1700 people in its offices in the region. Thereafter, software development services, ITES, and network management services for E&Y's clients in the Middle East region are potential areas for setting up in India. Ernst & Young ME has set up an Indian subsidiary, EYME Technologies Pvt. Ltd., with its registered office at Trivandrum.

Announcing this decision at a press conference today, Mr. Khosrow Dabir-Alai, Chief Operating Officer, E&Y ME, said: "Kerala presents an industry friendly approach and the State appears to be committed to the process of reform. We have done our homework and we are convinced about the distinct advantage of locating ourselves in Technopark. The physical, communication, and power infrastructure meets our global standards. Kerala's flexible regulatory framework is most relevant to organizations such as ours that operate in multiple time zones. This is our first step into India and we are bullish on our growth prospects in Kerala. We have come to Kerala with the objective of transferring the bulk of our back office services to India, and we intend to do this as fast as it is practicable. The back office services include software development, application maintenance, knowledge management, multimedia content development, technical help desk services for the Middle East region".

Mr. P.K. Kunhalikutty, Minister for Industries & IT said: "The Kerala Government welcomes Ernst & Young ME to Kerala. E&Y's decision provides a strong fillip to Kerala in realizing its full potential as India's leading destination for investment by IT and ITES companies. This event is a strong vote of confidence in the State's ongoing reform process. We assure the management of Ernst & Young the Government's fullest support in time to come."

Added, Mr. Binu Koshy, CIO, E&Y, Middle East: "Apart from availability of skilled human resources in the region, the other factors that pulled us to Technopark was the consistently stable law & order situation, and excellent air connections from the Middle East to Kerala. Technopark provides the perfect environment for high quality, creative work."

Ms. Aruna Sundararajan, Secretary-IT, commented: "This is a strong endorsement of the progressive steps undertaken by the Kerala Government in the last 1 year. The vision in

the IT policy was translated into concrete implementation on the ground in several key areas, particularly the regulatory framework, the incentive schemes, and other enabling measures for IT industry. We welcome E&Y Middle East to our shores.”

Technopark CEO, Mr. Rajiv Vasudevan said, “We are delighted to have Ernst & Young set up operations in Technopark. This is a landmark event: E&Y is the first true blue transnational global leader reposing confidence in Technopark and Kerala. E&Y has recognized the distinct value proposition that Technopark offers today- a uniquely holistic enabling environment for knowledge organizations, at 1/3rd the cost of comparable facilities elsewhere. They join the over 55 vibrant companies including four CMM Level 5 companies and two CMM Level 3 companies that operate from this campus. We welcome Ernst & Young and wish them all the very best in their future endeavors in India. We assure our fullest support to enable their successful growth.”

About Ernst & Young Middle East

Ernst & Young is the global leader in professional services firm dedicated to helping companies identify and capitalise on business opportunities throughout the world. E&Y's over 111,000 employees in more than 150 countries worldwide can implement a wide array of solutions in audit, tax, corporate finance, online security, enterprise risk management, the valuation of intangibles, and other critical business-performance issues. E&Y Middle East's practice areas include accounting and auditing, tax and corporate finance. With 17 offices in 12 countries in the Middle East region and over 1700 employees E&Y ME contributes most to the success of its people and its clients by creating value and confidence.

About Technopark

Technopark, Trivandrum is India's first technology park and among the two largest IT parks in the country today. Technopark is an autonomous society promoted by the Government of Kerala. Spread over 156 acres, and about 1.5 m. sq.ft. of built-up space, it hosts over 55 IT and ITES companies, including 4 CMM Level 5, 2 CMM Level 3 and several ISO 9000 certified companies. Technopark is the IT hub of the State of Kerala, and based in Trivandrum which can rightfully claim to be the knowledge capital of the region. Technopark provides world class, robust and failsafe infrastructure, meeting global standards to IT companies. Technopark provides a holistic enabling environment to make knowledge organisations intrinsically competitive and successful.

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