

# NEW STRAITS TIMES

(Wednesday 04<sup>th</sup> June 2008)

## Revitalised Dataprep on lookout for takeovers, partnerships

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DATAPREP Holdings Bhd, an information technology (IT) company, may take over rivals or find partners to grow, after raising some RM47 million cash from a rights issue.

It is now in talks with a few regional companies and hopes to seal a deal within the next six months.

Dataprep was freed from its PN17 status on October 8 last year, which had affected the group for more than a year. The status indicates that a company is not in good financial health.

"Now is the time for us to look forward, look for expansion beyond the country and invest in new areas of growth," director and chief executive officer Cheam Tat Inn said in a briefing in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Dataprep has identified at least four main growth areas it wants to tap, namely server consolidation, storage virtualisation, network integration and mobile Internet services.

These are among the high growth areas that are driving the industry locally and in the region. Within two years, he hopes they will be able to contribute more than 10 per cent to the group's revenue.

"We aim to be a regional player that offers a broader range of IT services, thus the reason we want to work together with company that already has the knowledge and expertise in this field," he said.

In three years, Dataprep hopes overseas contribution will command more than half of its revenue from about 10 per cent now.

Locally, Dataprep is implementing E-Court services at 400 other courthouses in the country. It had pioneered and installed the system at 11 courthouses so far.

This year, it is also bidding for projects worth some RM500 million and is optimistic of its chances.

On July 1 2008, Cheam will succeed outgoing group chief executive officer Chew Liang Kim, who has been heading the company the last four years.