

# Packet One invests RM30mil in WiMAX broadband

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**GEORGE TOWN:** Packet One Networks (M) Sdn Bhd is investing RM25mil to RM30mil in phase one of its P1 WiMAX broadband project in Penang.

Chief executive officer Michael Lai said the investment would involve setting up WiMAX infrastructure and technology in 50 areas.

"Each location will have at least three base stations to cover strategic areas in George Town and Seberang Prai.

"The first phase should be completed by end-2009," he said after the launch of the P1 WiMAX test-drive project by Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng yesterday.

There are altogether three phases.

The WiMAX broadband project has been implemented in the Klang Valley and Johor Baru.

Lai said the test run would start on Feb 9, covering Jalan Perak, Jalan Burma, Jalan Magazine, Jalan Transfer and Bukit Mertajam.

"Our authorised dealers would set up demonstration points at these areas. The test run would go on till the official launch in mid-2009," he said.

Meanwhile, Lim said the first phase of the project would cover 70% of the island and Seberang Prai.

"The fast roll-out came about because the Penang government understands good governance and business certainty.

"We managed to reduce the processing time by six to 10 months without compromising any of the conditions stipulated by the industry practice and regulatory authorities," Lim said, adding that with the launch of the P1 WiMAX project, Penang aimed to become an "i-land" by 2010, the "i" standing for Internet and invest.