

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NCER’s Strategic Collaboration with Jabil Circuit Sdn Bhd and Inari Amertron Berhad Provides Jobs for Almost 2000 Job Seekers

Penang Science Park, Penang, 8 March – Jabil Circuit Sdn. Bhd. and Inari Amertron Berhad, key players in the Electrical & Electronics (E&E) industry in the Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER), have recruited close to 2,000 job seekers in a strategic collaboration with the Northern Corridor Implementation Authority’s (NCIA) JomKerja@NCER programme.

Since the programme was launched in August 2020, JomKerja@NCER has helped create close to 5,000 job opportunities in the manufacturing, services and agribusiness sectors, with more than RM21 million in incentives committed by NCIA to over 100 businesses operating in the NCER. Penang and Perak are leading the way in jobs created with 66.8% and 21.1% respectively; whilst Kedah and Perlis following at 7.3% and 4.8% respectively (please refer to the table below):

JOMKERJA@NCER 2020 SCORECARD

Total Allocation	Total Participants	STATE (pax)				CLUSTERS (pax)		
		Perlis	Kedah	Penang	Perak	MFG	Services	AGB
RM21.6 Mil	4,977	243 (4.8%)	363 (7.3%)	3,329 (66.8%)	1,042 (21.1%)	3,949 (79.3%)	675 (13.5%)	353 (7.2%)

This achievement is inline with Majlis Pekerjaan Negara’s (MPN) call for all parties to assist in the efforts to create job opportunities for the Rakyat. Chaired by Prime Minister of Malaysia, YAB Tan Sri Dato’ Haji Muhyiddin bin Haji Mohd. Yassin, MPN has set a target for the creation of 500,000 new jobs in 2021. NCIA has pledged a total job creation target of 14,487 for the region this year. The strategic collaboration with Jabil Circuit Sdn Bhd and Inari Amertron Berhad (Bhd) will contribute towards meeting this objective. JomKerja@NCER also aims to reduce the region’s dependency on foreign workers.

These local talents registered with the JomKerja@NCER pool are semi-skilled and fully skilled workers from various manufacturing industries such as E&E and M&E who were recently retrenched, as well as fresh graduates and school leavers. Recruiting companies will employ them and provide on-the-job training as stipulated under the JomKerja@NCER terms and conditions. During this period, NCIA will undertake to incentivise companies 50% of the worker's wages up to a maximum of RM1,000 per worker for six months.

"JomKerja@NCER is a well thought-out programme that makes a lot of sense for companies like ourselves to retain and expand our business during this challenging period. With the incentives provided, we are now able to be more competitive to meet increasing demands for our products," said Mr. KC Lau, Executive Director cum Group Chief Executive Officer of Inari Amertron Bhd.

"The COVID-19 outbreak has been a challenging time for many Malaysians and companies. Besides matching jobs and positions, the JomKerja@NCER programme takes a holistic look at supporting companies in the short and long-term. We will continue supporting NCIA in its efforts to help workers and the business community," said Mr. KC Chen, Senior Financial Controller of Jabil Circuit Sdn. Bhd.

"This strategic intervention programme reflects the holistic approach of NCIA's human capital programmes via the Federal Government's short-term PENJANA recovery plan, as well as the aspirations of National Budget 2021 in addressing the urgent concerns of unemployment and saving livelihoods during this period," said Datuk Seri Jebasingam Issace John, Chief Executive NCIA.

"The advanced semiconductor and E&E ecosystem in Penang and Kulim are well poised to capitalise the global shortage of microchips critical for the production of automobiles, household appliances, medical devices, telecommunication equipment to IT products. I hope with the global rise in demand for semiconductor microchips, leading E&E players such as Jabil Circuit Sdn Bhd and Inari Amertron Berhad will take advantage of this surge in demand and play a bigger role in addressing unemployment in the northern region," added Datuk Seri Jebasingam.

Late last year, a field study was undertaken by NCIA in collaboration with Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) to assess and better understand the overall impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the implementation of the Movement Control Order (MCO) especially on unemployment and retrenchment trends in the region.

The findings from the field study highlighted the need for integrated human capital programmes targeted to upskill and reskill workers to improve their employability and safeguard livelihood. These 'place and train' programmes are instrumental to ensure the availability of a skilled workforce to support the industries and entrepreneurs (MNCs, LLC, SMEs) that are the backbone of the economy and help address the immediate needs of the vulnerable groups and impacted industries.

Industries with strong growth potential post-pandemic such as Manufacturing, E&E, Machinery & Equipment (M&E), Digital Economy, Agribio and Logistics sectors are strongly urged to participate in JomKerja@NCER. The win-win situation provides job opportunities for those retrenched from the sectors highly impacted by the pandemic such as Tourism, Aviation, and Maritime.

NCIA will continue to intensify its efforts this year to reach out to more participants (job seekers) and businesses so more can benefit from the incentives provided under the JomKerja@NCER programme.

"The NCER Strategic Development Plan 2021-2025 (SDP) outlines our efforts to help the unemployed and retrenched increase their income and sustain their livelihood in this difficult period. We are steadfast to ensure the Rakyat, businesses and industries in NCER remain resilient in the face of current economic challenges," stated Datuk Seri Jebasingam.

To explore job opportunities for job seekers and businesses looking to continue the hiring process or retain workers, please register for JomKerja@NCER by contacting the NCER Secretariat at 04-503 0198/ 04-503 0199 or email eapplicationcontactcentre@ncer.com.my. For further information and updates, visit www.ncer.com.my/jomkerja_jomniaga or follow NCER on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn social media platforms.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

About NCIA

The Northern Corridor Implementation Authority (NCIA) is a regional development authority responsible for establishing directions, devising policies and strategies related to the socioeconomic development of the Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER). Incorporated in June 2008 under the Northern Corridor Implementation Authority Act 2008 (Act 687), NCER encompasses the four northern states of Kedah, Penang, Perak and Perlis in Peninsular Malaysia. NCIA's Chief Executive is Datuk Seri Jebasingam Issace John.

NCIA drives the growth of NCER towards becoming an excellent economic region while catalysing and implementing high value-added development programmes in six (6) economic clusters: Manufacturing, Agribusiness, Petrochemical, Mining, Green Economy and Services (Inc. Tourism; Logistics and Connectivity; and Digital Economy).

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About Inari Amertron Berhad

Inari Amertron Berhad is a Malaysian based investment holding company, listed in Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange. Inari is one of the top Malaysian semiconductor company which provides electronic manufacturing services and semiconductor packaging services such as back-end wafer processing, package assembly and testing for global customers in various segments such as Radio Frequency Filter, Optoelectronics, Fiber Transceiver, IR sensors etc.

Inari has manufacturing facilities in Malaysia, China and Philippines with total workforce of more than 5,500 people.

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About Jabil

Jabil (NYSE: JBL) is a manufacturing solutions provider with over 260,000 employees across 100 locations in 30 countries. The world's leading brands rely on Jabil's unmatched breadth and depth of end-market experience, technical and design capabilities, manufacturing know-how, supply chain insights and global product management expertise.

Driven by a common purpose, Jabil and its people are committed to making a positive impact on their local community and the environment. Visit www.jabil.com to learn more.

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