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## Port Klang Free Zone to open doors in June

THE Port Klang Free Zone (PKFZ) near West Port, modelled after Dubai's Jebel Ali Free Zone, is expected to open its doors to investors in June next year.

Jebel Ali Free Zone Authority (JAFZA) International, the designer and manager of PKFZ, is negotiating with 33 companies from all over the world, said JAFZA director of international operations Chuck Heath.

PKFZ, owned by Port Klang Authority, will be the country's first fully integrated free commercial and industrial zone.

Covering 400ha, it will offer prepared industrial sites (open land), light industrial units (LIUs) for factories and warehouses and office space at the PKFZ business complex.

"The project is 74% completed and we are slightly ahead of schedule," Heath told a media briefing in Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday.

JAFZA has 20 years of experience in port and free zone management and has helped develop free zones in Morocco and Djibouti.

Heath said only 50 companies operated from Jebel Ali Free Zone after five years of operation, but the number mushroomed to 5,000 companies from 120 countries in 20 years.

He said there were enquiries from 57 companies in the Dubai free zone, of which seven were in discussions with JAFZA.

Heath hoped that upon operation in June, about 2.3 million sq ft of PKFZ would be occupied.

The open land offers 298.4ha of prepared sites for long-term lease while the LIUs have 512 units at 5,487 sq ft each with a tenancy of one to three years.

Its office complex comprises four, eight-storey blocks with a flexible tenancy of one to three years. — Bernama