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PUTRAJAYA: The results of one of Malaysia's five research work conducted at the International Space Station has been patented by other countries, which proves the country can make a significant contribution to the world in science and research.

Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Dr Maximus Ongkili said the results of protein crystallisation, a research headed by Prof Dr Raja Noor Zaliha Raja Abd Rahman of Universiti Putra Malaysia, have been patented not only by Malaysia but also in Europe, the United States and Japan.

"The findings on protein crystallisation are of industrial importance and we expect a lot of companies, including those dealing in pharmaceutical, food supplement and oleochemical, to benefit from this.

"This is certainly a milestone for Malaysia and it quashes the perception that Datuk Dr Sheikh Muszaphar Shukor was a space tourist," Dr Ongkili told reporters yesterday after opening a workshop on micro-gravity sciences.

The results of the experiment show that crystals grown in micro gravity environment are superior to earth grown crystals.