



AMIC sets sights on Green Aviation



The Aerospace Malaysian Innovation Centre (AMIC), a consortium-led project spearheaded by European Aeronautics Defence and Space Company (EADS), Rolls Royce, Composite Technology Research Malaysia (CTRM) and the Government of Malaysia convened its first board meeting on Monday, 14 Nov 2011, setting research priorities for upcoming projects. Science Advisor to Prime Minister Prof. Emeritus Datuk Dr Zakri Abdul Hamid and Chief Technical Officer of EADS Dr Jean Botti are the joint chairmen for the Board of directors.

The centre is setting its sights on technology to develop jet fuel from algae, innovative new standards in aero structure manufacturing and sustainable green aeronautic materials as well as improved technologies for systems integration.

“Advances in these areas hold immense promise for the aerospace industry,” said Jean Botti, Chief Technology Officer of EADS, which has committed RM16 million over three years to the centre.

“Work in strain selection, micro algae feedstock production and development of the downstream process for biofuel from algae can both help the industry move towards carbon neutrality and enhance Malaysian expertise in the space,” he added.

Development of other identified technology areas such as innovation in aero structure manufacturing and sustainable aeronautic materials also promise to advance Malaysia’s position in high-value sustainable industries and contribute to the value chain of global OEMs, such as EADS and Rolls Royce.

AMIC was approved by the Government of Malaysia in December 2010 at a meeting of the Malaysian Aerospace Council chaired by the Prime Minister of Malaysia and is expected to be officially launched at the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA), in December.

Funded by RM40 million in grants from the Government of Malaysia, EADS and Rolls Royce, the centre is an industry-driven organization pairing industry demands for research and technology with local Malaysian capability from universities. Universiti Putra Malaysia was appointed to be the lead-university, which has committed RM15 million over five years as a matching grant. For the board meeting, UPM was represented by the Vice Chancellor, Dato’ Ir Dr Radin Umar Radin Sohadi.

“By ensuring that research and development projects that are undertaken by our aerospace centres of excellence are industry-driven, technology that is developed out of Malaysia has a much better chance of entering into the supply chain of the big customers who are global OEMs,” said Mohd Yusoff Sulaiman, President and CEO of MIGHT and head of the secretariat for Malaysia Aerospace Council (MAC).



“What we’ve done is directly connect industry needs to research and development capability in Malaysia. This will go a long way towards ensuring the sustainability and global competitiveness of Malaysian aerospace industries,” he added.

The centre has already had a number of research proposals, which are being vetted for approval, based on the identified research priorities and are expected to start being approved towards the end of 2011.

Currently, UPM has been seconded two staff to AMIC. The two staffs are Assoc Prof. Dr Abd Rahim Abu Talib as Chief Operating Officer and Dr Mohd Roshdi Hassan as General manager for R&D.

By Mohd Roshdi Hassan, PhD - Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering – (03-8946 4381) email: morhas@eng.upm.edu.my,

Hak Cipta Terpelihara 2007
Universiti Putra Malaysia