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Khazanah Nasional, British Aerospace sign cooperation pact

KHAZANAH Nasional Bhd and British Aerospace Plc yesterday signed a cooperation agreement for a partnership to develop Malaysia's capability in designing and manufacturing of aerospace products.

British Aerospace managing director Allan MacDonald said the cooperation will provide Malaysia with access to aerospace technologies and will create the technical skills and intellectual property for Malaysia to compete for international aerospace work and future aircraft programmes.

The cooperation agreement signed will provide for the establishment of a joint undertaking which include investment by Khazanah in British Aerospace's wholly-owned Avro Regional Jet business.

Khazanah and British Aerospace have identified a number of aircraft programmes where capability can be transferred for the design, manufacture and assembly of aerostructure component for both military and commercial aircraft.

Khazanah was represented by its managing director Tan Sri Mohd Sheriff Mohd Kassim at the signing ceremony while British Aerospace by MacDonald.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. It was held in conjunction with the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (Lima) 1997.

MacDonald said British Aerospace has a long and valued relationship with Malaysia and very much welcome the opportunity to further strengthen the ties through the alliance.

"As Malaysia develops a comprehensive aerospace capability, British Aerospace will assist Malaysia in participating in other aerospace programmes," he said.

He added training and education are also high on the priority list for British Aerospace in Malaysia and aerospace education and vocation programmes will be developed through this cooperation.

As well as working with the Education Ministry, universities and schools, British Aerospace is supporting the development of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) with their involvement in the electronic government and as project manager of the British Malaysian Institute which will provide manpower for the MSC.

Mohd Sheriff said the development of a strong aerospace industry has been identified as a priority under Malaysia's Second Industrial Master Plan in the country's efforts to move towards high technology manufacturing and for strengthening its exports.

"Khazanah welcomes the opportunity to develop a partnership with British Aerospace, which is one of the longest established business in aerospace," he added.

Meanwhile, Composites Technology Research Malaysia Sdn Bhd (CTRM) chief executive officer Tan Sri Dr Chen Lip Keong said with the signing of a cooperation agreement between Khazanah and British Aerospace, CTRM will be holding talks with Khazanah "to consider the possibility of getting some subcontract work, particularly in the manufacturing of composite component."

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