

CTRM signs RM800mil contract with Airbus

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By LEE YUK PENG in Malacca

MALACCA-BASED Composites Technology Research Malaysia Sdn Bhd (CTRM) has reached a major milestone with the signing of a RM800mil contract with Airbus to design and manufacture wing components for its A380 model, scheduled to come into use by 2006.

"With this contract, we hope to secure more contracts from Airbus," CTRM chief executive officer Abdul Malek Packeer told a press conference yesterday.

The contract between CTRM, represented by Malek, and Airbus, represented by its executive vice-president (procurement) Ray Wilson, was signed at the CTRM composites facility in Malacca. The event was witnessed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Malacca Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam and CTRM chairman Tan Sri Dr Ahmad Zaharudin Idrus.

CRTM, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Minister of Finance Inc, is Airbus' first partner in South-East Asia to design and manufacture fixed, leading-edge lower panels for the A380, the largest super jumbo commercial twin-deck aircraft with 555 seats.

The contract is for the entire life of the Airbus A380 production. Airbus has secured a total of 97 orders for the model so far, and Singapore Airlines and the United Emirates will be the first carriers to use the A380.

"We are delighted that CRTM can provide Airbus with a full design and

build service through the design facility in Cyberjaya and composites manufacturing facility in Malacca," said Wilson.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir said it was a case of a dream come true for Malaysia after setting up the company 12 years ago, as the country was then looking around to venture into other industries besides electronics.

"We did not have too big an ambition to build an aircraft on our own, but we

did want to acquire skills in the production of composite parts," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who launched the CTRM plant in Batu Berendam, which involves an investment of RM150mil to RM200mil, also reminded staff and engineers at CTRM not to let the country down.

"We are more confident in Airbus now because you have confidence in

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CTRM is Airbus-approved composites maker

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us," Dr Mahathir said.

While it was a win-win situation for both parties, Dr Mahathir said he hoped this would be the beginning of a great partnership.

CTRM is one of the few Airbus-approved composites manufactur-

ing sites in the world.

It also produces a range of general aviation aircraft such as the Eagle 150B and the Lancair Columbia-300, and supplies composite wing parts for the Airbus A320 series.

Malek said CTRM was planning to increase the production of Eagle

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150B from 16 units a year to 27, as well as raise its sales volume both in local and foreign markets.

"We have buyers from Australia, New Zealand, Thailand and the United States," he added.

Airbus is jointly owned by EADS and BAE Systems, with a turnover of 20.5 billion euros in 2001.