

04/10/2002

CTRM signs RM800m deal with Airbus

Ramlan Said; Hamidah Atan; A. Hafiz Yatim

COMPOSITES Technology Research Malaysia Sdn Bhd (CTRM) yesterday signed a RM800 million deal with Europe-based giant aircraft maker Airbus to design and manufacture the fixed leading edge lower panels for A380 Super Jumbo new range commercial aircraft.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad witnessed the event and also opened the CTRM plant at Batu Berendam, Malacca.

CTRM was represented by its chief executive officer Abdul Malek Pakeer, while Airbus UK was represented by its executive vice-president (procurement) Ray Wilson.

Also present were Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam and Deputy Transport Minister Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib.

Under the deal, CTRM is to provide the components to Airbus by September.

CTRM chairman Tan Sri Ahmad Zaharuddin Idrus said the company will collaborate with Airbus in designing and manufacturing the structural components for the largest commercial aircraft in the world - the A380.

"The A380 fixed leading edge lower panels consists of 70 structural wing panels per aircraft.

"Sixty-six panels are made from advanced carbon composite materials and the remaining from metal. At present, we are carrying out the design of these panels, with the view of completing the design and engineering early next year," he said.

The Airbus A380 can accommodate 555 passengers and crew.

Ahmad Zaharuddin added that the design of the panels was done by Excelnet Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of CTRM, located at Cyberjaya.

CTRM, incorporated in November 1990, also handles different work packages from Airbus including wing sub-assemblies for the A380, aerostructure sub assemblies for the Nimrod MRA4 from the British Aerospace Systems and the front fuselage for the CRJ-700 from Bombardier Aerospace.

Wilson said he was delighted with the progress made by CTRM, adding that it would continue supporting the programme.

"Last year, Airbus managed to get 55 per cent of the commercial aircraft market share costing close to RM45 billion. It sold 335 Airbus last year," he said.

He also hoped that Malaysia Airlines would increase its orders of nine A380 planes.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir also witnessed an agreement between the Malacca Government and WRA Global Group Sdn Bhd to build the Malacca Culture and Historical Park.

The company said overall, the proposed concept will be a journey through time in history from the present into the Malacca Malay Sultanate and its empire.

The main attraction of the project, to be located on reclaimed land in Tengkeru, is its observation wheel and telecommunications tower named Taming Sari.

The observation wheel, 180 metres in diameter, will offer viewers a magnificent view of Malacca city and the busy Straits of Malacca.

The proposed Taming Sari Tower, which will be 360 metres in height, will not only double up as a telecommunications control facility but also as a security observation centre for the busy shipping route of the Straits of

Malacca.

A monument of Sultan Mansur Shah's palace built in 1460 will resemble the main entrance into the complex.