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AIRBUS-COMPONENTS

CTRM DELIVERS COMPOSITE PANELS FOR AIRBUS A320 SERIES

KUALA LUMPUR, April 17 (Bernama) -- Composites Technology Research Malaysia (CTRM), which was awarded a RM100 million contract to design and manufacture leading edge and trailing edge composite panels last year, handed over the first delivery of the panels to BAE Systems here today.

The carbon composite wing panels, which will be used in the Airbus A320, A319 and A321 series of aircrafts, were manufactured at CTRM's state-of-the art facility in Batu Berendam, Melaka.

"CTRM was awarded the contract by BAE Systems in May last year and I am delighted to announce that we are now ready to deliver the first batch," said CTRM chairman Tan Sri Dr Ahmad Zaharudin Idrus here.

Speaking at the handing over of the composite panels to BAE Systems officials, he said the CTRM group would like to become not only a major player in the local aerospace industry but also in the region.

Dr Zaharudin, who is the Science Advisor to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, said the production of such panels was indeed another fine accomplishment for the company and reflected their efforts over the years to gain recognition for Malaysia in the aerospace industry.

He said the company would never compromise on quality since safety was the main criteria in the production of aircraft components.

BAE Systems, a global systems, defence and aerospace company, has 20 percent partnership in the Airbus consortium responsible for the design and manufacture of wings and fuel systems for every Airbus aircraft produced.

The composite panels was produced by CTRM's subsidiary, Aero Composites Technology Sdn Bhd.

The CTRM contract with BAE Systems is for five years with an option to supply for the life of the aircraft programme, which could run for another 10 years.

Meanwhile, CTRM chief executive officer Abdul Malek Packeer Mohamed said production of such panels was a significant step for Malaysia and has put the nation into an exclusive club of nations that supply components to leading manufacturers of large civil aircraft.

He said over the years, BAE Systems has contributed significantly towards development of Malaysian aerospace industry such as industrial partnership, training and secondment of experts in aerospace engineering.

Present at the handing over ceremony was David Griffiths, the managing director of BAE Systems United Kingdom and Neil McManus, the project director of Airbus Industries. -- BERNAMA

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