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Malaysian Aerospace, aircraft manufacturing skills acknowledged worldwide

MALACCA, Tues. - Malaysia's capability in the aerospace and air-craft manufacturing sectors has been widely acknowledged by the global community, as evident from the various projects undertaken by Malaysian companies.

Deputy Transport Minister Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib said today this is in line with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's vision to make Malaysia the aeronautical and aerospace hub by 2020.

He said the local aerospace industry has positioned itself alongside other major international players which augurs well for the future of the industry.

"We have seen remarkable progress in the Malaysian aerospace industry and we hope this will attract more local and international investors to support the growth of this high-tech and niche market.

"Where the Government is concerned, we will continue to provide support to ensure the industry will excel and progress in the most appropriate manner to safeguard the future of the country," he said after witnessing a signing ceremony between Composites Technology Research Malaysia Sdn Bhd (CTRM) and BAe Systems for the manufacture of structural wing components for the Airbus A320 aircraft.

The contract, which is valued at about RM300 million, was signed by CTRM chief executive officer Abdul Malek Packeer and BAe Systems Aerostructures managing director Dave Griffith.

Others who witnessed the signing were CTRM chairman Tan Sri Ahmad Zaharuddin Idrus, BAe Systems procurement director John Catterall and CTRM board member Jen (rtd) Tan Sri Abdul Rahman Hamid.

This is the third contract awarded to the company, following two other contracts for the manufacture of the Airbus A300 fixed leading edge and Airbus A320 trailing edge composite panels.

Ramli said local companies should not rest on their laurels despite having acquired the necessary technology and know-how in design, development, testing and manufacturing of primary and secondary structures.

"They have to continue to strive for excellence to gain customers' confidence and competitive edge," he said.