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Mahathir-Satellite

MALAYSIA'S SECOND MICROSATELLITE NAMED "RAZAKSAT"

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 7 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today named the country's second national microsatellite as "RazakSAT" in honour of the late Tun Abdul Razak Hussein, Malaysia's second prime minister.

The function to name the satellite, formerly known as the "MacSAT", was held at Astronautic Technology (M'sia) Sdn Bhd (ATSB) in Technology Park Malaysia, Bukit Jalil, here.

RazakSAT is an earth observation satellite which carries medium-aperture cameras.

The microsatellite is jointly developed by ATSB and Satreci Companies Ltd of South Korea. It is capable of capturing digital images of 2.5-metre pancromatic and 5-metre multispectral resolutions.

Work to develop this satellite officially took off in 2000 when 16 ATSB engineers were sent to South Korea to collaborate with their counterparts there.

Part of the RazakSAT sub-system, a crucial component of the microsatellite, was however developed locally by ATSB engineers.

This production of RazakSAT sub-system marked the first occasion that such a high technology satellite component was developed in Malaysia by local aerospace engineers.

Development of the satellite encompassed three phases -- design, construction and launch.

RazakSAT is scheduled to be launched into orbit in August next year.

ATSB was established by the Malaysian government to implement the microsatellite technology programme.

The programme trains local engineers in satellite techniques, forming the nucleus of the Malaysian space industry's human resources.

This has resulted in the development of the country's first microsatellite -- the "TiungSAT-1", launched into orbit on Sept 26 2000.

-- BERNAMA

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