

# Boost for local aerospace industry

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**SUBANG JAYA:** Malaysia's aerospace industry has received an additional boost with aerospace giant EADS investing further in the country, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Speaking at the launch of Eurocopter Malaysia Sdn Bhd's (a division of EADS) regional maintenance centre, Abdullah said he was pleased with the latest development.

"Eurocopter Malaysia is investing RM40mil to set up the centre within the Malaysia International Aerospace Centre (MIAC) with an additional RM40mil allocated for expansion in the next three years," he said.

Abdullah said the company would operate via smart partnerships with

local vendors and in co-operation with local universities.

He also indicated that the government's decision to transform the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah airport here into the MIAC continued to bear fruit with EADS' decision.

"The decision by the company to invest here is testimony of their confidence in the efforts to create new growth sectors, particularly in the area of aerospace maintenance, repair and overhaul services."

Abdullah said Malaysia was keen to develop its aerospace industry to be a future engine of growth in light of all the existing basic ingredients such as infrastructure and political stability.

"To remain at the competitive frontier, the Government will continue to improve the investment climate with the ultimate aim of reducing the total

cost of doing business in Malaysia," he said.

At a press conference later, Eurocopter Malaysia managing director Phillipe Labrano said Malaysia was a key market in the Asian region, bringing in RM273mil in sales last year.

"Revenue from Asia makes up about

25% of our total revenue of €4bil (RM17.7bil)," he said, adding that there was an upward revenue trend in Malaysia.

Labrano said 20 local vendors also benefited from sub-contracts from the company worth some RM17mil last year.