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PRIME NEWS

# PM: We welcome more UK investors

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**STRATEGIC:** They will boost our commercial ties, says Najib

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**T**HE government welcomes more investors from the United Kingdom to boost commercial ties and establish partnerships with firms in Malaysia, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

He said as the UK had strong educational ties with Malaysia, it was the commercial ties between the two countries that needed to be enhanced.

"British Prime Minister David Cameron had said in an interview during his official visit to Malaysia in 2012 that he wanted to continue developing a broad-based partnership with Malaysia, based on shared values and strong cooperation on education, skills, trade and defence.

"We have unique skills, traits and cultures, but our ties are deep and historic. They are also strengthened



**Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak shakes hand with UMW manufacturing and engineering division executive director Megat Shahrul Azmir Nordin after the signing of the agreement between UMW Group and Rolls-Royce in Putrajaya yesterday. With them are (from left) British High Commissioner to Malaysia Victoria Treadell, and Rolls-Royce chief operating officer (supply chain) Mike Mosley and Supply Chain Development executive Mark Prockter. Pic by Mohd Fadli Hamzah**

by the good-natured and friendly relations, and shared sense of national purpose on a range of issues, from the need to promote security and combat extremism, to our common belief in enterprise and opportunity," Najib said yesterday after witnessing the signing of a 25-year agreement between UMW Group and Rolls-Royce for the manufacture and assembling of fan casings for the Roll-Royce's Trent 1000aero-engine.

The Trenr 1000 is a turbofan engine, developed from earlier Trent series engines, which powers the Boeing 787 Dreamliner on its maiden Aight in December2009.

The agreement was signed by Rolls-Royce supply chain development executive officer Mark Prockter and UMW manufacturing and engineering division executive director Megat Shahrul Azmir Nordin.

Najib said the agreement reflected the confidence of Rolls-Royce in the strength and stability of the country's economy and skills of its people.

He said this was the kind of collaboration the government encouraged, with the deal estimated at RM830 million.

As part of the deal, UMW will collaborate with Majlis Amanah Rakyat (Mara) through its subsidiary company, Mara Aerospace and Technologies Sdn Bhd, to establish an

apprentice training centre in support of the project to produce a highly-skilled workforce.

"I am hopeful that it will be a pivotal nerve centre in providing the technical know-how and transfer of technology of Malaysians, while also generating jobs and business opportunities for the local community," said Najib, adding that the facility would be fully operational in 2017.

UMW is one of the leading conglomerates in Malaysia and the first company to become a Tier 1 supplier to Rolls-Royce, one of the world's most renowned car and aero-engine manufacturers.

UMW Holdings group chairman Tan Sri Asmat Kamaludin said the contract was a new chapter for the group, with the prime intention of establishing Malaysia as a formidable aerospace engine parts manufacturing force in the region.

Rolls-Royce chief operating officer (supply chain) Mike Mosley said the strategic deal represented a significant success for Malaysia in its

drive to establish a strong aerospace industry, as envisaged by the National Aerospace Blueprint 2016-2030 under the Economic Transformation Programme.

"With its commitment to creating successful aerospace industry, Malaysia is an ideal country to look

for manufacturing partners."

Present were International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datu Seri Abdul Wahid Omar and British High Commissioner to Malaysia Victoria Treadell.

## Najib to meet Matta members

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak will meet members of the Malaysian Association of Tour and Travel Agents (Matta) in a "Meet the Prime Minister Session" at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) on Aug 27.

Matta president Hamzah Rahmat said the session with Najib would allow members to discuss the tourism market situation, travel industry issues and the country's tourism development.

"Suggestions and requests will help the government to bring the tourism industry forward, and as preparation towards making Malaysia a developed nation by 2020," he said at the Matta Hari Raya open house here yesterday.

He said the country's travel industry was down by 30 per cent over the last six to nine months.

On the Matta fair from Sept 4 to 6 at PWTC, he said the association targeted 100,000 visitors. Bernama