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UMW inks deal with Rolls-Royce

Group secures RM830mil agreement on aero engine fan cases

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PUTRAJAYA: UMW Group has secured an RM830mil deal with Rolls-Royce Ltd to manufacture and assemble aero engine fan cases.

The 2S-year agreement will see UMW M&E Sdn Bhd and subsidiary UMW Aerospace Sdn Bhd making fan cases for Rolls-Royce's Trent 1000 engines which power the Boeing 787 Dreamliner.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the deal showed Rolls-Royce's confidence in Malaysia's economic stability and skilled workforce.

Najib, who is also Finance Minister, said the collaboration was in line with the government's aim to make the private sector the main driver of economic growth as Malaysia heads towards a high-income nation status by 2020.

"The New Economic Model and the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) were launched in 2010 to help us reach the target of per capita Gross National Income of US\$15,000 (RM59,352) by 2020.

"This will be achieved by attracting US\$444bil (RM1.75tril) in investments which in turn, will create 3.3



Sealing the deal: Najib witnessing the agreement between UMW Group represented by Megat Shahrul (seated, left) and Rolls-Royce's Prockter in Putrajaya. Also present are (from left) Asmat, Mustapa, Treadell and Rolls-Royce supply chain COO Mike Mosley.

million new jobs," Najib said.

The ETPs key thrust, he added, was to return the private sector to its role as a major engine of economic growth.

"The bulk of investments, targeted at 92% by 2020, are to be financed by the private sector.

"This new agreement between UMW Group, one of the leading conglomerates in Malaysia, and Rolls-Royce, one of the world's

renowned names in car and aero-engine manufacturing, is exactly the kind of collaboration we like to encourage," said Najib at the memorandum signing ceremony here yesterday.

Rolls-Royce supply chain development executive Mark Prockter and UMW M&E executive director Megat Shahrul Azmir signed on behalf of their respective organisations in the presence of Najib, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamad, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Abdul Wahid Omar and British High Commissioner to Malaysia Victoria Treadell.

Under the agreement, the fan cases would be manufactured in Malaysia where Rolls-Royce engines, including the Trent 1000, are assembled and tested.

It was also revealed that a Rolls-Royce manufacturing plant, at an undisclosed location in Malaysia, is expected to be completed by 2017.

UMW Group chairman Tan Sri Asmat Kamaludin said UMW and Mara would also be working together to establish a training centre to produce high-skilled workforce to support the project.