

# Flying high in the aerospace industry

THE aerospace industry is a hi-tech activity hub that is expected to be one of Malaysia's main engines of growth in the next decade, as indicated in the Malaysian Aerospace Industry Blueprint 2015-2030. As of today, the industry has contributed RM11.2bil to the country's gross domestic product. In 2013, the sector created 19,500 job opportunities. The blueprint's vision is to create 32,000 job opportunities by 2030.

The aerospace industry encompasses a global complex of manufacturers who produce aircraft, helicopters, military aircraft, missiles, rockets, spacecraft and satellites. International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) projections show that the commercial aircraft fleet is expected to increase to about 47,500 by 2036, of which more than 44,000 or 94% will be new-generation technology, according to the ICAO Environmental Report 2010.

Aerospace engineering is divided into two – aeronautical engineering and astronautical engineering. Aeronautical engineering deals with aircraft that fly within the Earth's atmosphere while astronautical engineering focuses on spacecrafts that fly outside the atmosphere.

By observing the trends and realising the potential of this industry towards contributing high-income growth in Malaysia, Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) thought it imperative to develop the Doctor of Philosophy (Aerospace) and Master in Engineering Technology (Aerospace) programmes.

These postgraduate programmes will be conducted at the new UniKL Malaysian Institute of Aviation Technology (MIAT) campus in Subang. This campus will have enhanced facilities and is part of the university's long-term plans to launch the new postgraduate programme.

The aerospace industry is vast and expanding, and UniKL MIAT wants to position itself as a contributor to the development of high-performance aircraft and spacecraft systems. The Doctor of Philosophy (Aerospace) and Master of Engineering Technology (Aerospace) aim to

develop graduates who are:

- Knowledgeable, competent, and innovative in the field of aerospace engineering technology at national and international levels.
- Effective leaders with teamwork skills as well as verbal and nonverbal interpersonal skills who manage and communicate effectively to lead and engage multidisciplinary teams in solving engineering problems at national and international levels.
- Committed to the importance of lifelong learning and continuous improvement in the field of aerospace engineering technology at national and international levels.
- Aerospace engineering technologists who use engineering knowledge and skills to explore and embark on technopreneurial opportunities with novel and innovative research activities at national and international levels in their field.
- Aerospace engineering technologists who integrate ethical, social and professional responsibilities in their field. – **By Dr Mohd Amzar Azizan, postgraduate coordinator at UniKL**

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UniKL MIAT aims to be a major player in the aerospace industry.