

UMP GRADUATES SELECTED TO PIONEER AEROSPACE INDUSTRY



Three graduates from Universiti Malaysia Pahang's (UMP) Faculty of Mechanical Engineering (FKM) were among the 24 candidates who secured their seats in the "Aerospace Leaders" pilot programme, successfully beating thousands of other contenders in the nationwide search.

This means the three – Hairisuddin Idris and Mohd Zaid Zakaria, both 23, with Bachelors in Mechanical Engineering, and Nurul Husna Md Sharif, 24, with a Bachelor in Automotive Engineering – would soon find themselves employed as engineers in three of the country's world-renowned aerospace corporations, with the expertise to manufacture components for aerospace exploration.

This pilot programme was the brainchild of the Ministry of Higher Education, with close participation of public institutions of higher learning, and the collaboration of Malaysian-Industry Group for High Technology,

Spirit Aero Systems Malaysia Sdn. Bhd., Strand Aerospace Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. and Composites Technology Research Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. (CTRM).

According to the Programme Coordinator, Marlizan Markali from Might-Meteor Advanced Manufacturing Sdn. Bhd., of the 500 who qualified to the final selection process, only 24 aspirants were chosen. Of the number, 20 were males and four females. These 24 will be equally distributed for employment among the three participating aerospace corporations.

"However, prior to their secondment to these companies, they have to undergo intensive training in soft skills, where they will acquire communication proficiency and 16 months of technical competency".

"They will be trained in both theory and practical, especially in utilizing the CATIA software, until they become well-versed and expert in the required fields," said Marlizan.

The only rose among the thorns – Nurul Husna – who will be joining US-based Spirit Aero Systems in Subang, Selangor, said she felt fortunate to have put up a good fight and beaten other applicants who actually possessed educational qualifications in aerospace.

She believed she had made the right decision to apply as employers' demand for the particular skills and expertise is expected to rise in the not-too-distant future.

Meanwhile, Mohd Zaid could not believe his interest in aerospace has finally turned into reality, when offered to work with UK-founded Strand Group of Companies.

Hairisuddin, who will be employed at CTRM, expressed his bountiful gratitude, for the exposures to acquiring humanitarian and soft skills at UMP have landed him and the other two these hard-earned placements in the aerospace industry.

Present at the official launching of the Soft Skills Course at the Agro Resort Semuji in Kuantan, Pahang, were UMP's Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni), Professor Dr Yuserrrie Zainuddin; Might-Meteor Chief Operation Officer (COO), Jasmin Baba; Strand COO, Naquib Mohd Nor; as well as representatives from Spirit AeroSystems and CTRM.