

PRESS STATEMENT

For further information on Rafale International, contact:
Nathalie Bakhos, Rafale International
Email: nathalie.bakhos@dassault-aviation.fr

RAFALE TECHNO DAY HIGHLIGHTS FUTURE TECHNOLOGICAL BREAKTHROUGHS IN AVIONICS

- *Rafale Techno Day which started in 2013 continues to share advancements in defence technology with Malaysians; held for the first time in Sabah*
- *This third edition of the series of discourse focuses on nanotechnologies, and the next breakthroughs in airborne radars and electronic warfare systems*
- *Conferences respectively co-organised by UMS in Kota Kinabalu and NDUM in KL; attended by 350 participants*
- *Event emphasises Rafale's commitment to Malaysia and provides opportunities to extend collaborations*

Kuala Lumpur, 26 January 2015 – Pilots today have an array of aviation electronics (avionics) to assist them complete missions successfully. Scientists are constantly designing systems now for the future to anticipate the ever-evolving warfare complexity.

Future advancements in avionics will witness breakthroughs brought by the application of emerging technologies such as nanotechnologies and photonics. These technologies are amongst those that will mark future airborne radar and electronic warfare systems.

Three renowned scientists came together recently to share their expertise in these domains with members of the industries and academe under the banner of the Rafale Techno Day. It was also the first time that this conference was held in Sabah.

The experts were Associate Professor Charlotte Tripon-Canseliet from the Pierre and Marie Curie University (UPMC in Paris, France), who has been working on nanomaterials and nanodevices in Radio Frequency (RF) domain and associated technologies since 2003; and Professor Philippe Coquet from the Institute of Electronics, Microelectronics and Nanotechnologies (IEMN in Lille, France) who is working on microwave antennae, flexible electronics, nanotechnology for RF and microfluidic.

They shared the presentation stage with Dr Jean Chazelas, Scientific Director of Thales Defence Mission Systems who holds more than 200 publications and 40 patents in the fields of semiconductor physics, spintronics, photonics, microwaves and related nanotechnologies.

Present to hear and have discourse on these new breakthroughs in airborne radars and electronic warfare systems were 350 participants from related industries and academe. Organised by Rafale International together with local collaborators, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and National Defence University of Malaysia (NDUM) with the support of Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MiGHT), the Rafale Techno Day was held in Kota Kinabalu and Kuala Lumpur over two days.

Professor Datuk Dr Mohd Harun bin Abdullah, Vice Chancellor of UMS said, “It is indeed a rare opportunity that we are able to co-organise a conference featuring leaders in the field of nanotechnologies, who can provide scientific, applications and commercial perspectives to the research. This discourse is in line with UMS’ aspiration to impart knowledge of current issues and modern perspectives. Learning and sharing breakthroughs with industry players and other academe will enable UMS to constantly innovate as we strive for excellence. The Rafale Techno Day is also another step that cements the strategic partnership of UMS with MiGHT and the industry leaders of Rafale International and Thales.”

The conferences pave the way for new opportunities and possibly extend the collaborations between the Malaysian scientific community and the Research and Technology (R&T) teams at Rafale International partners. In addition, these conferences illustrate how the companies that have developed and produced the Rafale initiate and carry out fundamental and applied research projects to discover, demonstrate and develop innovative design and manufacturing solutions that are eventually incorporated in their most advanced systems and in particular in the Rafale multirole fighter.

Rafale International Program Director for Malaysia, Daniel Fremont said, “Through the Rafale Techno Day conferences, we combine three complementary targets of sharing our know-how on advance technology topics, encouraging new ideas and opportunities of cooperation and strengthening our global network of excellence. We hope links between our French and Malaysian partners can be strengthened through this platform.”

Dedicated to technological breakthroughs in avionics, this third edition of the Rafale Techno Day was a continuation of the conference series which was held in 2013 in NDUM and Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) in Penang, and in 2014 in Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) in Johor.

The third edition of Rafale Techno Day was led by Thales, global technology leader in the Aerospace, Transportation, Defence and Security markets and is a partner in the consortium that developed the Rafale fighter jet. Thales has a unique capability to design, develop and deploy equipment, systems and services that meet the most complex security requirements.

Dato' Jesbil Singh, Assistant Vice Chancellor of National Defence University of Malaysia said, "We saw a high level of interest amongst Malaysian academics when the topic of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) was discussed at the first Rafale Techno Day which we hosted in 2013. NDUM is pleased to once again lend weight to this conference as the commitment of industry partners such as Rafale International is critical to our university becoming a centre of excellence, especially in defence technology and systems. These conferences provide a platform for both our lecturers and students to learn from industry and scientific leaders whilst keeping abreast of real-world demands and applications."

The Rafale Techno Day emphasises the consortium's commitment to Malaysia and to the development of a scientific network of excellence in Malaysia, based on the development of technological capabilities and human capital in the country.

These Conferences comprise a series of scientific presentations and discourses that address various state-of-the-art technologies related to the business sectors of companies in Rafale International. The first edition of the Rafale Techno Day was hosted by Dassault Aviation while the second edition was spearheaded by Snecma (Safran). Dassault Aviation, Snecma (Safran) and Thales are companies that make up the Rafale International consortium, the producer of the Rafale fighter jet.

Attendance at the conferences is by invitation only, and is free of charge. Further details are on www.rafalemalaysia.com

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About Rafale International

Rafale International is a consortium set up by Dassault Aviation, Snecma (Safran) and Thales to promote the Rafale multirole fighter to international customers. The three partners are international leaders in the aerospace and defense markets, with more than 135,000 employees and combined revenues of 30 billion euros.