PRESS STATEMENT

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Keen Northern Interest in High-Tech Topics at the Rafale Techno Day Conference

Rafale Techno Day Conference set the discussion pace on Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) among industry and academia players in the Northern Region.

Penang, 31 October 2013 – The second session of the Rafale Techno Day conference which was held here today at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) saw some 70 thought leaders, and stakeholders from various universities, industries and institutions, gathering to discuss advances in unmanned aerial vehicles.

Organised by Rafale International and Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT), and hosted by USM, the conference provided an opportunity to discuss on-going technological developments related to autonomy in airborne systems, with specific application cases to Unmanned Aerial Vehicles.

Rafale Malaysia Program Director, Daniel Fremont, said, "We understood from our discussions with our partners such as USM that UAV is currently a topic of high interest for the Malaysian community. That is why we decided, through this conference, to share some of our knowledge on this topic, with a specific focus on the autonomy aspect, including more prospective points of view. Besides, it. is fully complementary to another initiative that we have launched at the beginning of the year, the UAV Siswa Challenge, a student competition dedicated to system integration for UAV."

The Rafale Techno Day conference featured presentations from Head of operational and future systems concepts analysis in Dassault Aviation, Pierre Helie and Deputy Director of research unit lab of the French engineering school Telecom Bretagne, Gilles Coppin.

Helie and Coppin presented complementary perspectives on UAV. Helie spoke on the operational and design authority challenges linked to the transfer, partial or total, of the control of various activities from human operator to non-human systems. Coppin's topic addressed the technological and scientific challenges linked to the control of multiple UAV Systems, with concrete applications to swarms of UAVs.

The extensive exchanges after the presentations between the presenters and the audience, among which are a significant number of students, show the keen interest amongst participants and augurs well for Malaysia's technology capacity building.

"Through the Rafale Techno Day conferences, we combine 3 complementary targets of spreading a part of our know-how on high-tech topics, raising new ideas and opportunities of cooperation and strengthening our global worldwide network of excellence, by reinforcing links between our French and Malaysian partners," Fremont said.

Dean of USM School of Aerospace Engineering, Prof. Dr. Zaidi Mohd Ripin, said: "USM is constantly pursuing advancement in the scientific and technological arena in our goal to be the thought leader in this sector. This conference provides an unprecedented avenue at our door step, to be informed and involved in the discussion of state-of-the-art technologies that are being developed overseas by industrial leaders. This conference has reinforced our relationship with the Rafale companies, and is a good opportunity to build together fruitful cooperation projects".

The next edition of the Rafale Techno Day will be held at the beginning of 2014.

Rafale International is a Joint-venture of companies comprising aerospace leaders Dassault Aviation, Thales and Snecma (Safran Group), which is proposing the Rafale multirole fighter aircraft to the Royal Malaysian Air Force.

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About Rafale International
Rafale International is a Joint-venture (G.I.E Groupement d'Intérêt Economique) set up by Dassault Aviation, Snecma (Safran Group) and Thales to promote the Rafale fighter aircraft to international customers. The three partners are major international leaders in the aerospace and defense fields with more than 135 000 employees and a turnover of 28Bn Euros.