

**ISKANDAR INVESTMENT BERHAD WELCOMES AKADEMI KECEMERLANGAN SUKAN DRON NEGARA (AKSADRON) IN DRZ**

*AKSADRON in DRZ Iskandar supporting the development of the Nation's drone industry as well as Industry 4.0*

**ISKANDAR PUTERI, 25 AUGUST 2022:** Iskandar Investment Berhad Ventures (IIBV), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Iskandar Investment Berhad (IIB), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) today with FUTURISE Sdn Bhd, to launch Akademi Kecemerlangan Sukan Dron Negara (AKSADRON) in Drone Robotics Zone Iskandar (DRZ Iskandar) in accordance with the aspirations of the development of Drone Sports Industry in Malaysia. As set out in the MOU, FUTURISE is responsible to develop and operate AKSADRON Iskandar as well as establishing a regulatory lab for drone racing in DRZ Iskandar.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by YB Dato' Indera Mohd Shahar bin Abdullah, Deputy Finance Minister 1, and YB Mohd Hairi bin Mad Shah, Chairman of the Johor State Youth, Sports, Entrepreneur Development, Cooperatives & Human Resources Committee. It was held during the Future of Drone Sports in Malaysia Forum at Medini Iskandar.

Deputy Finance Minister 1, Dato' Mohd Shahar bin Abdullah says, "I am pleased to witness the collaboration between Iskandar Investment Berhad and FUTURISE to be the driving factor in pushing the Nation's drone industry forward. New technology, automation and digitalisation have been instrumental in employment creation and income generation, building the momentum for the Nation's economic growth. With the rapid take-up on e-sports industry, the drone sports industry is moving towards the right track, and the Government is committed in making Malaysia as the future hub for this emerging sports."

"This is further reflected in the Budget 2023 with the theme "Strengthening Recovery and Facilitating Reforms towards Sustainability of Economic Resilience and Wellbeing of Keluarga Malaysia", the Government aims in driving Malaysia's economic growth and at the same time, ensure that the nation's prosperity is inclusive for all Malaysians today, and sustainable for future generations."

The global drone market revenue was estimated to be worth USD26.3 billion in 2021 which is a 46% growth from 2019 being USD18 billion and has been forecasted to have a CAGR of 9.4% from 2021 to 2026 with the possibility of reaching highs of USD43 billion in revenue. The Drone Sports Industry has the potential to equal or surpass the current highest market capitalization of the global drone industry which is industrial drones.



The opening of AKSADRON in DRZ Iskandar is in line with the Iskandar New Economic & Talent (NEXT) initiative, a public-private partnership programme with the Johor state government to support the State's digital economy agenda that aims to accelerate growth towards becoming a Regional and Global Business Hub. AKSADRON in DRZ Iskandar will support the development of the Nation's drone industry as well as Industry 4.0 in accordance with the technological needs of today. This includes the implementation of drones in various sectors including logistics, education, manufacturing, agriculture, and now sports.

YBhg. Datuk Ir. Khairil Anwar Bin Ahmad, President and Chief Executive Officer of IIB said, "We are proud to be a part of this collaboration with FUTURISE Sdn Bhd. This new initiative is consistent with Khazanah's long-term strategy in Advancing Malaysia as well as our aim to create a drone and robotics ecosystem in Iskandar Puteri with the vision of spurring growth in technology and talent development for Malaysia and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). In addition, this initiative is a further step up for Johor as well as Malaysia's innovation capabilities and will be important to propel the drone and robotics technologies, while reinforcing Malaysia's position as a high-tech nation by 2030."

Situated within the DRZ Iskandar, the academy features a racetrack which will play host for prestigious sports events at the local and international level. The academy will also pioneer unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) development programmes to cultivate a vibrant pool of Johor talents for this emergent industry. This initiative is expected to bring positive impact to Iskandar Puteri and to the whole country, through multiple avenues such as education, jobs, investment, research & development, and most importantly the sports industry.

According to Rozihan Zain, Chief Executive Officer of FUTURISE Sdn Bhd, "With the increasing number of drone enthusiasts in Malaysia and how drones are making their way into our everyday life, Drone Sports Industry will help to elevate Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education in line with The Malaysian Education Development Plan 2013-2025. Drones offer a lot in the aspect of education and are able to spark imagination, which is a critical first step for any learning initiatives. Some of the aspects are the physics of flight, aerodynamics, programming, engineering modifications and many more."

AKSADRON Iskandar will open its doors to enthusiasts, hobbyists and technopreneurs alike, bolstering the spirit of emerging sports in Johor and the region. More information on AKSADRON and upcoming events can be found at <https://www.futurise.com.my/aksadron>

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## **About Iskandar Investment Berhad (IIB)**

Iskandar Investment Berhad (IIB) is a Catalyst of Change and a key player in Iskandar Malaysia's transformation into a regional metropolis of international standing. Incorporated in November 2006, IIB is tasked to ensure Iskandar Malaysia continues its successful trajectory into an attractive investment destination and a vibrant liveable region via catalytic and high impact projects. IIB focuses on the development of Iskandar Puteri in the education, creative, tourism and leisure as well as health and wellness sectors. IIB's prominent accomplishments include the successful joint ventures and investment partnerships in EduCity, LEGOLAND® Malaysia Resort, Iskandar Puteri, Medini and infrastructure projects under the 9th Malaysia Plan in Iskandar Malaysia. IIB is committed to steering economic and environmentally sustainable growth in Iskandar Malaysia and ensuring inclusive growth for local Iskandarians through employment and income opportunities.

Khazanah Nasional Berhad (KNB), Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Kumpulan Prasarana Rakyat Johor (KPRJ) are shareholders of IIB.

**For more information on IIB, please visit [www.iskandarinvestment.com](http://www.iskandarinvestment.com)**

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