



## PRESS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Futurise Expands Drone Sports Hub to Johor Through Partnership with Iskandar Investment**

**Iskandar Puteri, 25th August** - As part of an effort to develop Malaysia's DroneTech, Futurise today signed an MOU with Iskandar Investment Berhad for the National Academy for Drone Sports Excellence (AKSADRON) programme. The partnership will see the integration of AKSADRON programme into the Drone & Robotics Zone (DRZ) here in Iskandar Puteri, Johor.

The signing between Futurise Sdn Bhd and IIB Ventures Sdn Bhd was held at Common Ground Iskandar Space @ Medini 6, Iskandar Puteri, and was witnessed by YB Dato' Indera Mohd Shahar, Deputy Finance Minister 1, YAB Datuk Onn Hafiz Ghazi, Chief Minister of Johor, and YB Tuan Mohd Hairi Mad Shah.

The event marks another key milestone of the AKSADRON project, which has already begun construction of a drone sports hub in Kuantan, Pahang in March this year. The aim is to develop the local talent pool of drone sports and DroneTech in general, through drone racing events, workshops, and other related events. Located at Tasik Paya Bungor within the Paya Besar vicinity in Kuantan, Pahang, the site is approximately 3.15 acres in size and is further surrounded by open space conducive for high-performance drone flying. Today's signing marks an early expansion to the southern peninsula region with the opening up of Iskandar's Drone & Robotics Zone to drone sports participation among Johor youth.

According to the Malaysia Aerospace Industry Association, Malaysia has a potential value of USD 12.13 billion which is 4.3% of the global market. Phystech Venture was also quoted in Forbes magazine that in the year 2020 and 2021 alone, there were USD 5 billion worth of investments in Drone technology by over 130 different companies in the global market.

AKSADRON will be a key player in this emerging landscape by providing a platform for drone athletes and engineers to improve on drone technology. Prior to today's signing, the academy has already begun working with the Ministry of Education to develop a DroneTech syllabus as part of STEM education.

"AKSADRON symbolises our commitment to human capital as a catalyst for growth, empowering new talents that will come into the market with fresh energy and the right skills, as is needed to accelerate the drone industry today," said YB Dato' Indera Mohd Shahar in his opening speech. He also shared his aspirations that AKSADRON



will open the door for drone racing to be part of SUKMA 2022, which will be held in Johor this year.

A forum discussion titled Future of Drone Sports in Malaysia was also held during the event prior to the signing. Apart from several panels representing the strategic partners, the forum was also joined by Ooi Li Lien from Drone Academy Asia and Capt. Ilyyaquila Fateen Binti Ismail of the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia.

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### **About Futurise**

Futurise is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cyberview Sdn Bhd under the Ministry of Finance.

Futurise is mandated by the Government of Malaysia to manage the National Regulatory Sandbox. Futurise provides public policy advisory, acting as a key enabler of regulatory solutions that can expedite innovation and future-proof Malaysia's economy.

The NRS provides a forward-looking approach to regulation, allowing minimal barriers by creating a controlled regulatory testing environment. This initiative will also help the Government better understand the importance of the impact of technology for economic growth and human capital development based on the principle of 'data-driven policy intervention'.

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