



PRESS RELEASE

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Futurise Launches Dronecubator In Collaboration with UKM

Bangi, 13th January – Futurise is proud to announce the launch of the Dronecubator programme at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM). The launch ceremony was officiated today by Deputy Minister of Finance I, Datuk Seri Haji Ahmad bin Maslan. This programme is part of the National Academy for Drone Sports Excellence (AKSADRON) initiative first announced in Budget 2022, in line with the Twelfth Malaysia Plan (RMK12).

The Dronecubator programme aims to provide a platform for students at the university and secondary school levels to get initiated into drone sports and technology. Using drone sports as an approach, the programme will enable participants to develop their skills and knowledge in drone design, building, piloting and maintenance. This programme supports current STEM and TVET modules and seeks to boost the creation of drone sports pilots and technicians in the country.

The current pilot phase will involve 200 students for 3 months across 4 public universities and selected secondary schools. The universities are University Sains Malaysia (USM), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM).

The Dronecubator program will feature trainers from Malaysian Air Sports Federation (MSAF) to deliver the training modules and participating students will be exposed all the skills and expertise needed to excel in this drone sports, events and competitions.

Datuk Seri Haji Ahmad bin Maslan stated in his speech at the launching ceremony, "The Dronecubator program represents a significant step forward in cultivating wider awareness and talents for the drone industry in Malaysia even as we face the challenges

of Industry 4.0 head on. With the support of Futurise, educational institutions and organisations like MSAF, we hope to nurture the next generation of drone experts, athletes and entrepreneurs.”

The Finance Deputy Minister 1 further said, “AKSADRON will be a key player in this latest landscape by providing a platform for drone athletes and engineers to improve drone technology. This is a sport where our local children can potentially compete internationally, in addition to developing skills in drone technology.”

Throughout 2022, Futurise has actively nurtured the drone sports environment via AKSADRON programs through partnerships with state and industry bodies, pivoting on drone sports development to attract local talents into the drone technology sector. The groundbreaking ceremony to develop Malaysia’s first drone sports center was launched in March 2022 at Paya Besar, Pahang. Estimated to complete this year, AKSADRON will feature a 1.27-hectare arena for high-performance drone flying and facilities for drone training and technical workshops.

UKM as one of the academic partners will provide an industrial teaching and training lab called Dronecubator-MakerXLab based at its Malaysia Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training or MyRIVET Satelit, as well as establishing a Drone & Futuristic Club for UKM students.

Futurise CEO, Rosihan Zain Baharudin, added, “We are thrilled to launch the Dronecubator program today here in UKM, one of the leading universities in Malaysia. Collaborations between industry stakeholders and universities such as this is needed to drive a dynamic ecosystem for the emerging drone sports and overall development of drone technology in the country. We believe that by providing students with more access to the latest technology and expertise, we can help drive talent and innovation in the drone industry. We have confidence our youths have got the capability to achieve much in this sector”.

He also added, “With regards to the drone sports, we are confident Malaysian youths have what it takes to become world class drone sports pilots one day in the near future and elevate Malaysia’s name at the world stage. Towards this end, Futurise is already working with partners such as Institut Sukan Negara, MSAF and Drone Racing Association Malaysia (DRAM) in leading the drone sports stakeholders towards creating a National Drone Sports Development Roadmap, which we hope will chart the way forward for drone sports.”

According to the Malaysia Aerospace Industry Association, Malaysia's economic potential for drone technology is valued at USD\$12.13 billion, 4.3% of the global market."

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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 (NRS). 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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