

## **KUTKM LINKS UP WITH FIVE FIRMS IN R&D**

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MELAKA, Feb 18 (Bernama) -- Kolej Universiti Teknikal Kebangsaan Malaysia (KUTKM) today signed memoranda of understanding (MoU) with five firms in efforts to boost its research and development (R&D) quality.

KUTKM Chairman Tan Sri Mohd Saleh Sulong said this was the first time that the university-college simultaneously linked up with five firms in various engineering and technical fields.

"Through the MoU, the firms can also conduct their own researchs using KUTKM facilities and expertise," he told reporters after the signing of the MoU at Seri Negeri here today.

Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Ali Rustam witnessed the function.

KUTKM signed the MoU with DRB-Hicom Berhad, Composite Technology Research Malaysia (CTRM) Sdn Bhd, Robomatics (Melaka) Sdn Bhd, MRJ Technologies Sdn Bhd and KRU Berhad.

KUTKM was represented by its Rector Datuk Prof Dr Mohd Ruddin Ab Ghani while DRB-Hicom's senior group director Datuk Mohd Nor Mohamad signed on behalf of the company.

CTRM was represented its chief operations officer Francis Hiew Nyuk Fah, Robomatics by its chairman Peter Tseng Chow Ming, MRJ Technologies by chairman Ibrahim Fadzil while KRU chief executive officer Norman Abdul Halim signed for the firm.

Mohd Saleh said the MoU focused on R&D which involved KUTKM's manufacturing, mechanical and electrical engineering faculties as well as its school of information and communication technology.

He said 400 KUTKM students would undergo training in the respective engineering fields at the companies.

Mohd Saleh the university-college had earlier signed MoU with two foreign institutions -- Coventry University (United Kingdom) and Technical University Berlin (Germany) in the technical field.

"Through these programmes, KUTKM is committed to produce graduates capable of meeting the employment market requirements with the skills they have," he said.

On the construction of KUTKM's permanent campus in Durian Tunggal, Alor Gajah, he said the first phase was expected to be ready end of this year with two faculties operational.

He said KUTKM's student population was expected to reach 15,000 when the Alor Gajah campus was fully operational.

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