

Push to develop local space industry

Govt sets up inter-agency office

EVEN as the Government announced a major push towards the final frontier yesterday, a local company went a step further, claiming that it plans to send the first Singaporean into space by 2015.

Singapore is taking formal steps to build its space-satellite industry by setting up the Office for Space Technology and Industry (OSTin).

The Economic Development Board programme comprises multiple Government agencies – including the Agency for Science Technology and Research (A*Star), the ministries of defence, education, foreign affairs and trade and industry and the National Research Foundation.

The office will also work with various industry stakeholders to help them realise their satellite business and innovation initiatives from Singapore.

Those keen to either expand their businesses into the space industry or strengthen their existing satellite capabilities could also tap on funds from the new office.

This was announced by Second Minister for Trade and Industry S. Iswaran (above) at the annual Global Space Technology Convention (GSTC) here yesterday.

Space, he said, attracts the interest of science and engineering students. And the industry's growth will spill over to other



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fields like precision engineering and electronics.

For a start, the office will be supporting two R&D projects from the Nanyang Technological University and the National University of Singapore.

Meanwhile, local high-tech start up IN.Genius said it plans to introduce safe and affordable space travel in Singapore by 2014 or 2015, as well as send a Singaporean into space during the Republic's 50th birthday bash.

"This first Singaporean spaceman is not a one-off event, but part of a larger series of

flight testings towards a six-passenger space vehicle for commercial space tourism," said IN.Genius' Lim Seng in a statement following a memorandum of understanding with Singapore Science Board and Singapore Space & Technology Association.

"We aim to take off on Aug 9, 2014 or 2015 during Singapore's 50th National Day, sending our first Singaporean astronaut up to into space."

Singapore-born citizens with a pilot's licence are invited to volunteer as the Republic's first astronaut for training. They should send their CV to: INGenius.GoSpace@gmail.com.

The closing date is May 30 this year.

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