NTU'S AEROSPACE ENGINEERING DEGREE PROGRAMME ENJOYS STRONG INDUSTRY AND RSAF SUPPORT
- Official launch marked by announcement of scholarships, loan of Skyhawk aircraft

NTU's School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering officially launched its Aerospace Engineering Degree Programme today. The programme is the first and only degree programme in aerospace engineering in Singapore and aims to nurture young talent for the country's growing aerospace sector. Its pioneer intake in July 2005 was 14 times oversubscribed.

The Guest-of-Honour, Minister of State for Education & Trade and Industry, Mr Chan Soo Sen, officiated the event, witnessed by many senior representatives from the aerospace industry in Singapore.

Rolls-Royce, the world-leading provider of power systems for use on land, at sea and in the air, announced at the launch its sponsorship of four scholarships with a total value of $100,000. The scholarships were awarded to the programme's top students from the first cohort. The four top students received the scholarships on stage from Mr Jonathan Asherson, Regional Director of Rolls-Royce, Singapore. This is the first time that Rolls-Royce is giving out scholarships to students in Singapore.

During the launch, Colonel Tsoi Mun Heng, Head Air Logistics, Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) presented Professor Lam Khin Yong, Dean,
School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, with the agreement document to formalise the transfer of a retired A4 Skyhawk as a permanent loan from RSAF to the School for educational purposes.

In his welcome address, Professor Lim Mong King, NTU’s Deputy President and Dean, College of Engineering, noted that the School has attracted top students as well as faculty from top-notch universities such as Imperial, MIT and Stanford. It has also successfully tied-up with renowned institutions such as Georgia Institute of Technology, Technical University of Delft and the University of Toronto to collaborate on research initiatives. Professor Lim also reported that the School is in the process of building its very own state-of-the-art Aerospace Laboratories & Hangar, which, among other activities, will house the RSAF SkyHawk.

Said Professor Lim, “The launch of the aerospace engineering degree programme illustrates the leadership role that NTU continues to play in developing talent for Singapore’s growth industries. Our innovative curriculum and the strong industry support this degree programme enjoy will ensure a relevant education for our students. Armed with a coveted degree, I believe our aerospace students, like all our NTU graduates, will be an asset not only to their future employers but to the industry in general.”

Added Professor Lam Khin Yong, Dean, School of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering: “We are happy to play an important role in the training of skilled manpower for the fast growing aerospace sector and to see strong interest in the programme. In fact admission to the aerospace programme is highly competitive and I expect it to remain so for years to come.”

Guest-of-Honour, Minister of State for Education & Trade and Industry, Mr Chan Soo Sen said: “It is my pleasure to launch Singapore’s first aerospace engineering degree programme. The strong industry support attests to the importance of this degree to the future development of the aerospace industry and demonstrates the companies’ commitment to Singapore as a global aviation hub.”

NTU’s Aerospace Engineering Degree Programme was developed with the objective of creating and growing high-value manpower for the aviation industry, which recorded S$4.4 bil of output in 2004. The aviation industry currently employs more than 14,000 people and contributes $1.9 billion to Singapore’s GDP.
Quotes from the programme’s partners and students:

"This NTU's programme will be Singapore's first full-fledged aerospace degree course. It is an important addition to the spectrum of aerospace courses available in Singapore. We look forward to highly-skilled engineers to be produced from this programme to enable Singapore's fast-growing aerospace industry to continue moving up the value chain."
- Mr Teo Ming Kian, Chairman, Singapore Economic Development Board

“Rolls-Royce operates in a high-technology business environment, thus it is pertinent that we support the education of future aerospace engineers. The students selected are of excellent calibre and we are delighted to have this opportunity to help them realise their fullest potential. Singapore can only benefit in the future from increasing its talent pool in this important sector.”
- Mr Jonathan Asherson, Regional Director, Rolls-Royce Singapore

“The RSAF is pleased to offer one retired A-4 Super Skyhawk to Nanyang Technological University for educational purposes. We hope that this contribution will enhance the students' learning experience as they pursue their degree in aeronautical engineering”.
- Colonel Tsoi Mun Heng, Head Air Logistics, Republic of Singapore Air Force

"This new degree programme, launched by NTU, will provide the Singapore Aerospace Industry with well qualified engineers, each with good competency in specialized engineering skills. These engineers will join the workforce with clear understanding of our industry's trend, culture and working environment, gained through their Industrial Attachment stints. There is no doubt that this NTU effort will add towards our human capital and will enable the continued and strong growth of the Aerospace Industry."
- Mr Oh Wee Khoon, President, Association of Aerospace Industries (Singapore)

“I was initially undecided about taking up this course as it is a totally new one, but I was interested at the prospect of a career in aviation. I'm glad I did - I've enjoyed the classes tremendously. Having the opportunity to be mentored by an industry senior has made the experience even more eye-opening and I really am looking forward to joining the aerospace industry when I graduate.”
- Ms Lee Han Ying, Claire, first-year student, NTU’s Aerospace Engineering Degree programme

"Being awarded the prestigious Rolls-Royce Aerospace Scholarship has been a tremendous boost of confidence for me. I'm able to gain valuable exposure to
the industry through the internships and mentoring Programmes with Rolls-Royce.”
- Ms Tan Yan Ru, a scholarship recipient

About Nanyang Technological University

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is an established tertiary institution with 12 Schools, including three new schools - the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, School of Art, Design and Media, and School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences.

NTU has a distinguished lineage with roots that go back to 1955. Today, we are a research-intensive university ranked among the top 50 in the world. Our strength in science and engineering is acknowledged globally. We have a business school with an MBA programme that is ranked among the top 100 in the world, an internationally-acclaimed National Institute of Education, one of the best communication and information schools in Asia, and a biological sciences school at the forefront of Singapore's life sciences initiative. The Institute of Defence & Strategic Studies is a world authority on terrorism.

Our New Undergraduate Experience featuring a holistic education including residential living and international experience has received external endorsement for its comprehensive curriculum featuring a rich selection of minors.

For more information, visit http://www.ntu.edu.sg/

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