Singapore, 10 September 2004

NTU to offer first-ever aerospace engineering degree programme in Singapore

Come July 2005, Nanyang Technological University (NTU) will offer a new four-year Bachelor of Engineering in Aerospace. The first of its kind in Singapore, the degree aims to produce engineers who are well-trained in the fundamentals of aerospace engineering with an in-depth and integrated system view of the field to support the aerospace industry.

The new degree in aerospace engineering is aimed at facilitating the growth of the aviation market. The local aerospace sector, with an output of S$3.8 billion last year, is expected to experience sustained phenomenal growth in the coming years. Most major aerospace repair and overhaul in the Asia Pacific region are currently being carried out here. Many aerospace companies are also moving into design and engineering activities to take advantage of Singapore’s strengths in this area. NTU’s aerospace degree programme will supply the necessary talent pool for this growing industry and help Singapore become a global aviation hub for commercial, business, cargo, charter and regional tourism.
Professor Lim Mong King, Deputy President and Dean of College of Engineering, elaborates, "The programme is a joint initiative in the College of Engineering. Due to its multidisciplinary nature, a holistic approach, involving the School of Electrical & Electronic Engineering and the School of Materials Engineering, will be adopted to support the new degree. This traversing between the different disciplines is essential for the proper training of the students to meet the requirements of the aviation industry."

The new aerospace degree will be offered by the School of Mechanical & Production Engineering (MPE). Prof Yue Chee Yoon, Dean of MPE, anticipates strong student enrolment for the new programme. “This being the only aerospace engineering degree programme in Singapore, admission is likely to be highly competitive. We expect the first cohort to fill up fast.”

Professor Shaker Meguid from MPE is the leader of the Task Force, which was formed to oversee the initiation and development of this aerospace programme. He says, “The curriculum has several unique features. Firstly, the programme will include a discovery course, which will enable students to build up knowledge of the field quite rapidly. Aerospace clusters will be introduced to enable the students to deal with real world problems and design complex systems. They will also be faced with open-ended problems to help them hone their lateral thinking and problem-solving skills.”

Representatives from the Task Force met with the Republic of Singapore Air Force as well as major players in the local aviation industry. Their responses have been overwhelming, underscoring their unanimous support of the new initiative and the need for such a degree. In fact, the industry has promised to commit a number of scholarships for this degree.
News of the new degree programme will be welcomed by students from Ngee Ann and Singapore Polytechnics who are currently studying aerospace engineering. Mr James Leung, Senior Lecturer in the Aerospace Technology Programme at Ngee Ann Polytechnic shares, “We are very pleased to learn of this initiative. Our students will now have the opportunity to enrol into this degree programme to upgrade their skills, enhance their careers and fulfill their aspirations!”

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About Nanyang Technological University

The Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is a top-tier university, ranked among the best science and technological universities in Asia. It has a business school that is consistently ranked among the top ten in Asia.

Established in 1991, the university has since been positioning itself to be a global university of excellence and is committed to its mission of Educating Leaders and Advancing Knowledge for Singapore and Beyond. NTU has an undergraduate and graduate enrolment of about 25,000 and an international faculty of over 1,500. It offers a broad-based curriculum, which focuses on the development of global views, entrepreneurship and adaptability, through the following schools:

1. College of Engineering, which consists of five schools:
   - Civil and Environmental Engineering
   - Computer Engineering
   - Electrical and Electronic Engineering
   - Materials Engineering
   - Mechanical and Production Engineering
2. Nanyang Business School
3. School of Biological Sciences
4. School of Communication and Information
5. School of Humanities and Social Sciences
6. School of Art, Design and Media
7. School of Physical Sciences (to be established by 2005)

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