



Business @ AsiaOne

Malaysia gets offer for more experiments

The offer was not for monetary gains but for "good scientific merit". -NST

Sun, Dec 20, 2009
New Straits Times

KUALA LUMPUR - Malaysia's experiments on protein crystallisation in space has impressed Japan so much that it has offered to take six more experiments to the International Space Station (ISS).

The experiments, during which the growth of 24 high-quality protein/enzyme crystals will be observed, will be onboard Kibo, the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency's (Jaxa) module on the ISS, over the next three years.

Best of all is that the opportunity is made available to Malaysia for the bargain-basement price of only RM1.5 million(\$0.6million).

The first batch went up in October and the second will be sent in February. Each experiment will last two to four months.

National Space Agency (Ang-kasa) space science research unit head Mhd Fairos Asillam said the offer was not for monetary gains but because the experiments showed "good scientific merit".

"The commercial cost of the experiments is easily at least six times as much as we are paying."

Also on the radar is participation in the European Space Agency's (ESA) Mars500 programme, which begins next year.

Mars500 is a programme that will simulate a 520-day roundtrip to Mars, including a 30-day stay on the Martian surface, in a sealed facility in Moscow.

Russia, whose Institute of Biomedical Problems is jointly conducting the programme with the ESA, has invited Malaysia to send experiments.

Angkasa has shortlisted four experiments, mainly in space medicine.

In August, the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry established Yayasan Angkasawan Malaysia (YAM) to promote space science and space ventures.

Minister Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili said its purpose would be to engage current and future Angkasawan, scientists, industry players and other individuals.

With a starting grant of RM5 million, YAM aims to raise public awareness to support not only the country's space programmes but more importantly, to embrace and adopt its benefits to enhance their standard and quality of life.

[an error occurred while processing this directive]

Copyright ©2007 Singapore Press Holdings Ltd. Co. Regn. No. 198402868E. All rights reserved.

[Privacy Statement](#) [Conditions of Access](#) [Advertise](#)