EADS woos talent in NUS Engineering for aerospace industry

SINGAPORE'S AEROSPACE industry will get an added boost as a new scholarship agreement between the Economic Development Board (EDB), European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company (EADS), NUS and the Nanyang Technological University, gets underway.

The agreement under the Joint Industry Postgraduate Programme signed on 1 October will see the sponsorship of selected PhD students through four years of their studies. Upon graduation, the students will also get the opportunity to work with EADS for three years.

The agreement was inked by Mr Gan Yeow Beng, Vice President and Head of EADS Innovation Works (IW) Singapore, Mr Sia Kheng Yok, Director of Transport Engineering, EDB, Prof Pan Tso-Chien, Dean, College of Engineering, NTU and Prof Chan Eng Soon, Dean, Faculty of Engineering. The ceremony was witnessed by Dr Jean Botti, Chief Technical Officer of EADS, Mr Leo Yip, Chairman of EDB, Prof Bertil Andersson, Provost of NTU, and Prof Tan Eng Chye, Provost of NUS and Deputy President (Academic Affairs).

Initial topics for the scholarship include electromagnetics, signal processing, data stream mining and reconfigurable real-time embedded systems. The students will work mainly in the universities jointly supervised by both a university professor and a researcher from EADS IW Singapore.

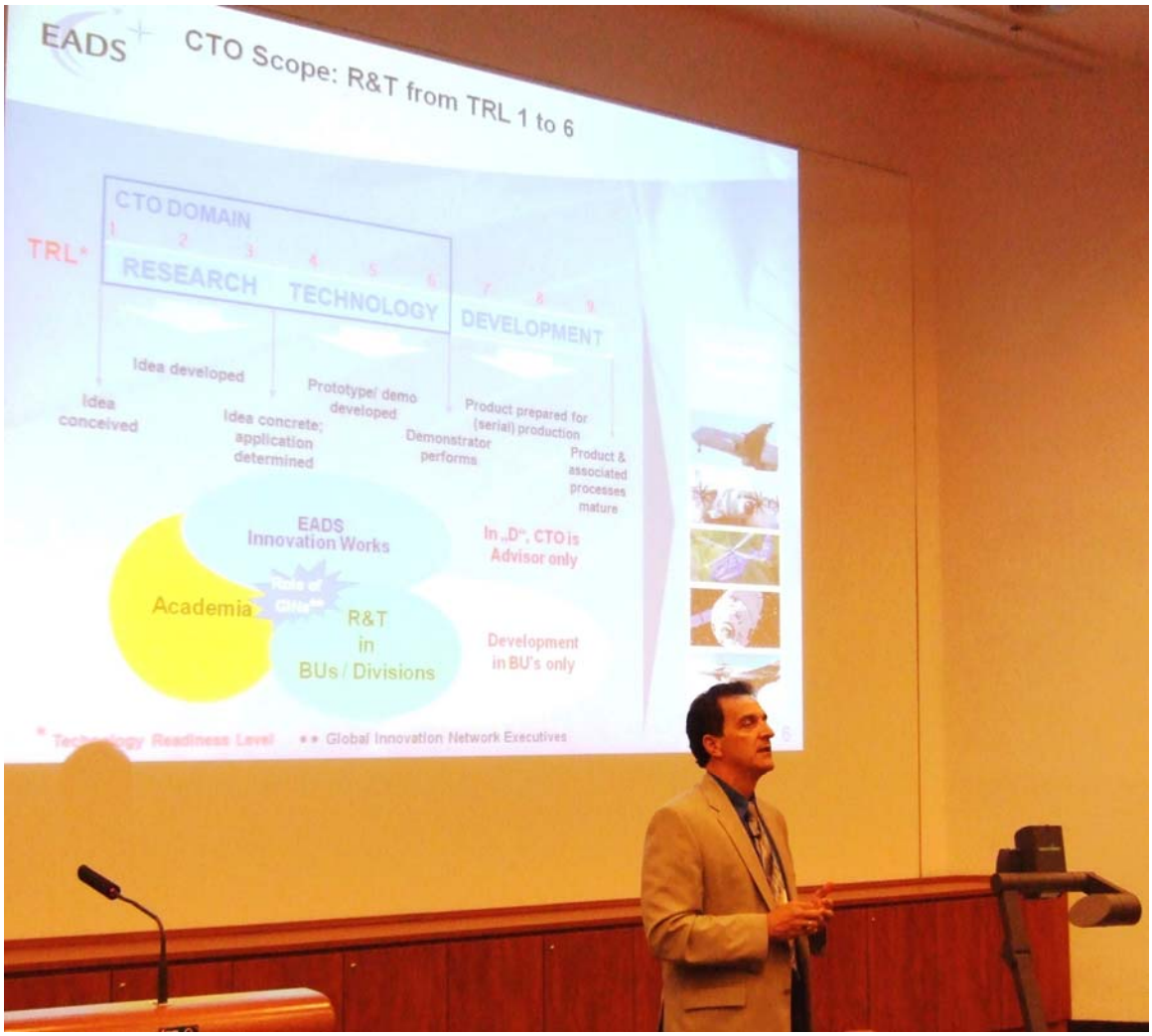
Dean Prof Chan said NUS has many areas of research that are relevant to the aerospace industry. He gave the example of Miss Ji Yuancheng, a PhD student who was selected for the JIP. Under the supervision of Dr Mouthaad Koenraad, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Yuancheng is undertaking research in prediction of electromagnetic interaction between integrated circuits and circuit boards.

"High frequency electromagnetic operations can increase the amount of energy radiated, which may cause equipment malfunction. This cannot be allowed to affect aircrafts. Yuanhing aims to come out with a predictive model, as current methods using simulation tools take too long a time are also costly," Dr Mouthaand explained.

Prior to the ceremony, EADS' CTO Dr Botti and his team were at NUS to give an overview of the capabilities of EADS and its plans to tap Singapore's research talent. Research is needed now, so that technology can be developed to meet the future, said Dr Botti.

A lively Q&A session followed his talk, with topics ranging from whether someone with interest in rocket science would fit in EADS (definitely) -- to chances of working in EADS centres all over the world including the US, Germany, Spain, UK, Russia and India.

The signatories are (from left) Prof Tan Tso-Chien, Mr Sia Kheng Yok, Dr Gan Yeow Beng, and Prof Chan Eng Soon. The ceremony was witnessed by (from left) Prof Bertil Andersson, Mr Leo Yip, Dr Jean Botti and Prof Tan Eng Chye.



Dr Jean Botti, EADS' CTO at NUS Faculty of Engineering. His talk attracted more than 100 students.