

# DSA, NATSEC Asia 2026: Public Universities Ink 16 Defence Tech Agreements

By Bernama-20 Apr 2026 | 5:42 PM



KUALA LUMPUR: Three public universities under the Ministry of Higher Education (KPT) have made history by signing 16 strategic agreements with various defence industry partners from the domestic and international sectors. Three Malaysian public universities under the Ministry of Higher Education Universiti Pertahanan Nasional Malaysia (UPNM), Universiti Malaysia Pahang Al-Sultan Abdullah (UMPSA), and Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP)

Signed 16 strategic agreements with local and international defence industry partners during the Defence Services Asia (DSA) and National Security (NATSEC) Asia 2026 Exhibition at Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre. The signing, witnessed by Higher Education director-general Azlinda Azman, was held under the Astaka KPT programme, which serves as a platform to connect university research with industry needs by showcasing innovations that can be evaluated and developed for the security sector. The agreements consist of MoAs, MoUs, NDAs, and Letters of Intent, with UPNM recording the highest number at 14, while UMPSA and UniMAP each signed one. More than 75% of the collaborations focus on defence technology and knowledge transfer, including missile systems, drones and unmanned aerial systems (UAS), cybersecurity, and rocket and satellite technology. Examples of innovations include UMPSA's drone technologies such as spy and delivery drones, Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia's training bomb designs, and UPNM's expertise in artificial intelligence and cyber defence. The Astaka KPT programme, running until April 23, also brings together nine universities to showcase 12 local innovations in defence technology, cybersecurity, and autonomous systems.

