

To space and beyond

The TeLEOS-1 system is a significant milestone, being the first Singapore-made commercial earth observation satellite with high resolution imaging capability.

The TeLEOS-1 system was developed by a multi-disciplinary team of more than 70 engineers from ST Electronics (Satellite Systems), with the support of DSO National Laboratories, NTU's Satellite Research Centre, and National University of Singapore's (NUS) Centre for Remote Imaging, Sensing and Processing.

"Space engineering is difficult. Building a satellite is testament to our ability to undertake complex engineering projects," says Mr Ong Kien Soo, Vice-President and General Manager, ST Electronics (Satellite Systems).

Mr Lim Wee Seng, Executive Director, Satellite Research Center, NTU, describes this project as a good example of translating early stage research into commercial success, and in building industrial capabilities in space technologies. Apart from generating high-value jobs for the economy, the



Reaching for the stars (from left): Mr Lim (NTU), Mr Kwoh (NUS), Mr Ong (ST Electronics) and Dr Desmond Lim Chin Siong (DSO National Laboratories).

project created a strong network of local SMEs with satellite building expertise, and strengthened the overall space ecosystem in Singapore.

"TeLEOS-1 is significant because its performance is able to match other satellites of the same weight class, which are commercially built by established companies around the world," says Mr Ong.

Mr Kwoh Leong Keong, Director, Centre for Remote Imaging, Sensing and Processing, NUS, adds: "TeLEOS-1 operates on the Near Equatorial

Orbit. This makes Singapore the only country in South-east Asia with such capabilities, which enables us to respond to any requirement to capture satellite images much faster than most satellites operating in the Polar Orbit."

The team was awarded the President's Technology Award (PTA) this year, which recognises research scientists and engineers whose R&D contributions resulted in significant technology with industrial applications. — HAZEL TAN