Rodeo for UAVs launched at IDEX

David Donald

esterday, INEGMA announced the launch of an Unmanned Systems Rodeo (USR) to be held here in the UAE. The competition has drawn high-level support from both within the UAE and from outside.

Under the auspices of His Eminence Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, the rodeo was launched to promote the development of skills and teamwork among tertiary students in the UAE. The competing teams will be assisted in their projects by Northrop Grumman (presenting sponsor), ADASI (associate sponsor), and the Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT).

INEGMA will organise the event, which will be hosted by HCT on 4 and 5 May. Teams will design, build, test and demonstrate remote-controlled aircraft. The first-placed team will win a trip to the AUVSI convention in Washington in August, and will also get the chance to present their concept.

Major General (Ret.) Khaled Abdullah Al Bu-Ainnain, president of INEGMA, remarked that the USR "is the first of its kind in the Middle East. It comes to fulfil an important element of the vision of the UAE leadership in transferring knowledge and technology to the new generations.

"The Unmanned Systems Rodeo is a yearly event," he added, "and our goal is to transform it into a regional, and then international, event."



HE Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, the UAE's Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research (left), discusses the USR event with Major General (Ret.) Khalid Al Bu-Ainnain, INEGMA president