

Boost for UCCI Science Programme

International power management and security development company O₂Micro International Limited recently donated US\$50,000 to the University College of the Cayman Islands (UCCI).

Earmarked for the college's physics and electronics programme, school officials expressed thanks for what was described as an unparalleled donation to the institution.

"This level of contribution from the private sector for the sciences at UCCI is unprecedented," UCCI President Roy Bodden said. "It will allow us to enhance what we currently offer and will be used in the best interest of our students."

Explaining that local students tend to fear the sciences, he saw the donation as an opportunity to show students available career paths in the field.

"The fear will go if disciplines like engineering are attractively presented to students and they can see the prospects available to them," he added.

O₂Micro International Director and Head of Marketing Jim Keim added that engineers are problem solvers for most of the world's challenges, but explained that their numbers haven't grown in conjunction with demand.

Accordingly, his company wants to help direct young people into the field and has made sizeable contributions to tertiary institutions in all their locations, including China, Singapore and India.

Founded in 1995, O₂Micro International is headquartered in Grand Cayman and is listed on the Cayman Islands Stock Exchange and NASDAQ.

They specialise in the development of products that enhance mobility and increase battery efficiency for high-tech devices such as cell phones, laptops, LCD screens, and car computers. The company's clients include Sony, Samsung, Toyota and BMW.

(GIS)