

Aerospace mart: 'Venture out' call

SUBANG, Wed. — Malaysian organisations involved in the aerospace industry were today told to be aggressive and venture out to obtain their share in this highly competitive market.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in making the call stressed that aircraft and component repair industry in the South-East Asian region has a large market potential.

He said although a number of countries in the region had established repair and overhaul centres, there was still a substantial

volume of work that flowed to the United States, Europe and other countries.

Opening the \$76.3 million MAS Hangar Complex at the Subang International Airport, the Prime Minister said Malaysian companies must enhance their competitiveness by providing high quality work and continuously explore ways and means of raising their productivity, if they hoped to be successful.

"They should cooperate and complement each other to make their presence felt, not only in the

South-East Asian area but in other regions like the Middle-Eastern countries."

The hangar and workshop with a total floor area of 26,000 sq metres — the biggest in this region — can accommodate one B747, a DC-10 or Airbus and one B737 at any one time.

The biggest

Dr Mahathir said the Aerospace Industries Malaysia must accelerate and widen its search for partners and opportunities to set up components and

parts manufacturing, light aircraft and helicopter assemblies and other high technology repair centres to service the market.

The Government, he said, welcomed foreign investors who were keen to set up their operations here; adding that Malaysia had the necessary infrastructure and a large pool of highly trained and adaptable work force to support its aerospace activities.

"We seek those who have a real desire to participate in the building of the Malaysian economy and who

are prepared to transfer their know-how in design, fabrication and production technology to their Malaysian counterparts."

Dr Mahathir said the opening of the hangar complex represented the coming of age of MAS.

Support

To enter this new era, MAS, he said, must shed its "small airline image" and adopt a more aggressive stand to ensure its rightful place among the big league airlines.

The airline, he said, must also play a leading role in helping the Government ensure the success of its tourism plan.

Dr Mahathir also said the Government would continue to give its support in order that MAS could expand its external network.

He also praised MAS for expanding its network to the United States and operating its fifth flight to London via Paris.

For these two new services, he added, MAS would be deploying the new B747 aircraft which had an enlarged cargo capacity.

The Prime Minister later toured the complex. He was accompanied by Transport Minister Datuk Dr Ling Liong Sik, Deputy Transport Minister Hajjah Rahmah Othman and MAS chairman Tan Sri Raja Mohar Badiozaman.