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7 MOUs signed at Lima '97

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday witnessed the signing of seven maritime memorandums of understanding (MOUs) and one acceptance agreement on board the Star Pisces cruise ship.

The first MOU was signed between the German Naval Group (GNG) and Naval Dockyard Sdn Bhd (Naval Dockyard), a company under Penang Shipbuilding and Construction (PSC).

This agreement is for a joint collaboration in the manufacturing of new generation offshore patrol vessels (OPV) project.

The signatories were Naval Dockyard executive chairman Datuk Amin Shah Omar Shah who signed on behalf of the company, while GNG was represented by Mr Herbert Von Nitzsch and Mr Dirk Rathjens.

The second MOU signed were between Naval Dockyard and Royal Ordnance, a wholly-owned subsidiary of British Aerospace plc, for the promotion, manufacture and supply of the 105mm artillery gun called SAKTI.

The agreement was signed in conjunction with the unveiling of the SAKTI 105mm weapon to the public by Dr Mahathir at the maritime segment of the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace exhibition (Lima '97).

Through this collaboration, Naval Dockyard will be the main supplier of the SAKTI gun to the armed forces in the South-East Asian region.

There will be phased technology transfer progressing from assembly to shared manufacture, with emphasis on establishing high quality in country defence equipment manufacture.

Apart from Amin Shah, other signatory of this MOU was Mr Barry Flower, director of Royal Ordnance.

The third MOU was signed between PSC Defence Technology Sdn Bhd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of PSC Sdn Bhd and Aeroinvest, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Aerospatiale, for the transfer of missiles weapon technology.

Aerospatiale missile is Europe's leading company which designs and manufactures a comprehensive line of products ranging from light portable infantry anti-tanks to nuclear missiles.

Through the agreement, a joint-venture company, Aeromarine Maintenance Services Sdn Bhd, will be set up. It will serve and support the Royal Malaysian Navy by carrying out maintenance and upgrading activities related to already existing Exocet missiles in the country.

Aeromarine Maintenance Services Sdn Bhd will be located at the naval dockyard in Lumut.

Amin Shah and Pierre Dubois, the chief executive officer of Aerospatiale missile, inked the documents.

The fourth MOU signed were between Power Magnetics and Electronics System Ltd, a leading UK defence company, and PSC Defence Technology Sdn Bhd, for a three-part Technology transfer agreement.

The technology refers to the protection of the vessels against the threat of magnetic mines. The signatories were Colin Milliard, the executive director of Power Magnetics and Electronics System and Amin Shah in his capacity as executive chairman of PSC.

The fifth - the acceptance agreement - was signed between PT Marina City Development of Indonesia and Wavemaster International of Australia for the delivery of two vessels, the Waterfront 1 and Waterfront 2.

The sixth MOU signed were between PJS Industries Sdn Bhd and Paragon Mann Ltd (UK) for the design, building, promotion and marketing of the

"Very Slender Vessels" (VSV).

The standard VSV is a military patrol vessel which has a maximum speed of 50 knots. It is 50 feet in length.

Its signatories were Mr Nick Keig, the director of Paragon Mann Ltd and Datuk Ahmad Johan, PJS Industries Sdn Bhd president.

The seventh MOU was between Destination Marine Services Sdn Bhd and University Technology Malaysia (UTM). This is a joint venture project to build 20m high-speed patrol boats based on UTM design and technology.

The final MOU signed was between TWM Enterprises Sdn Bhd, JC Services Sdn Bhd and Yong Au Mechanical and Research Development Co Ltd for the marketing and manufacturing rights respectively, for the ECO bicycle, Malaysia's first manufactured battery operated bicycle.

The signatories were Mr Teh Wee Min and Encik Johan Ariffin, the MD and chairman of TWM Enterprises, Encik Nordarzy Norhalim, the general manager of JC Services and Mr Feng Ji Yu, the president of Yong Au Mechanical and Research Development Co Ltd.

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