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Czech glider manufacturer seeks Malaysian partners

THE CZECH Republic's LET Aeronautical Works is seeking partners in Malaysia to import and market its LET L23 SuperBlanik and LET L33 Solo gliders which can be used to promote flying among the young.

Its commercial director, Zbynek Sabata, said yesterday the gliders, which sold well in 50 countries including the United States, Canada, Brazil, Argentina, India, South Korea, Japan and Australia, could be used in the Rakan Muda programme which was introduced by the Government to ensure that youths took part in healthy activities.

Sabata said children as young as 15 were already flying the glider in several countries including the US and Brazil.

LET Aeronautical Works was among the foreign companies from eight countries taking part in the five-day Oshkosh East Fly-In Convention and Exhibition, which was opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Monday.

"Our gliders are fully certified for flying by the United States Federal Aviation Authority and British Transport Authority. They are also certified in Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Germany, Spain, Austria, Sweden, Finland, Australia and many other countries.

"Our prices are also very competitive and carry the ISO 9000 certification," Sabata said.

The two-seater L23 SuperBlanik is an all-metal, self-supporting, high-winged glider. Due to its all-metal construction, the glider is guaranteed a service life of 6,000 hours. The L23 has been approved for all stages of flight training from basic to advanced cross-country, aerobatic, stunt and instrument flying.

The L33 Solo is designed for solo flights and advanced training.

"Our gliders are used by the Portuguese and South Korean Air Forces for basic training to their pilots."

Sabata said glider-flying would encourage team work among the participants as it required a tow plane to tow the glider.

LET Aeronautical Works which produces commuter aircraft, also plans to participate in the Langkawi International Aerospace and Maritime Exhibition (LIMA) 1997.

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