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Deal to build integrated logistics system

A MALAYSIAN and an Australian company have signed a memorandum of understanding to develop and market an integrated military logistics system for the Malaysian Armed Forces.

The signing ceremony between Mincom Pty Ltd, Australia's largest software development company and Dectra Information Technology Sdn Bhd at the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre in Langkawi, was witnessed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Mincom Integrated Management System allows all three branches of the Armed Forces - the army, navy and air force - to operate a common logistics management system.

Dectra executive director Mej Jen (Rtd) Datuk Ahmad Ibrahim said the system allowed for the easier management of equipment, adding that the integrated system also allowed information to be recorded and updated on a central databank.

"The system can be used to record data on purchasing, warehousing, distribution and the disposal of spare parts."

"This allows for updated records to be kept at all times so that a commander can be constantly informed of the battle readiness of the equipment at his disposal," he said.

He added that the Malaysian Armed Forces did not have such a system.

"We believe there is a need for it as the armed forces continues to modernise with the purchase of new sophisticated equipment which requires an equally capable management system," he added.

Ahmad, formerly the Army's General Officer Commanding Logistics, said, the Defence Ministry had not embarked on a programme to implement an integrated logistics management system.

"But we have presented our proposal in anticipation of such a need."

Meanwhile, Mincom director (defence business) Desmond Scherman said apart from Australia, the company supplied systems to the Canadian Department of Defence, the Indonesian Armed Forces and Britain's Royal Navy.

However, he said the logistic system offered under the agreement with Dectra would be modelled after the Australian Defence Force's system.

"What's important is, this agreement allows both parties to improvise the system based on the needs of the Malaysian Armed Forces and upgrading the system will be a continuous process," he added.

He said the agreement would also allow both parties to develop logistical management systems for other government agencies apart from the armed forces.

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