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Helicopter exhibition to be expanded

HELI Asia '98 is expected to be nearly doubled in size, confirming Malaysia's place as a dedicated helicopter exhibition venue, said its organiser Shephard Conferences and Exhibitions.

Its chief executive officer Alexander Shephard said the second biennial event, which will be held at the MINES International Exhibition Centre in Kuala Lumpur, would accommodate more than 200 stands.

"We have exhibition space totalling more than 6,000 square metres and more than half of it had been sold," he said.

He said top helicopter companies like GKN Westland, GEC Marconi, Kaman Aerospace, MHS Aviation, Bristow Helicopters, Lucas Aerospace, Chadwick-Helmuth, Aviall and Aston Aviation, had confirmed participation.

Shephard said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would be opening the conference on Oct 27, 1998.

"We have also invited Indonesian Minister for Research and Technology Prof B. J. Habibie to give the keynote address," he said.

The show will be open to civil and military visitors on all three days.

Together with the exhibition, several workshops with no entrance fee will be held, focusing on issues like search and rescue operations and external load operations.

For the military visitor, there will be workshops on Night Vision, Maritime Operations and Rapid Reaction Helicopters, according to a statement issued by the United Kingdom-based company.

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