

05/12/1997

PM witnesses signing of seven MoUs

y; Hayati Hayatudin

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

The first MoU was signed between the German Naval Group and Naval Dockyard Sdn Bhd, a company under the Penang Shipbuilding and Construction group.

This agreement was for a joint venture to manufacture new generation offshore patrol vessels.

The second MoU signed was 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 by Dr Mahathir at the maritime segment of the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace exhibition (Lima '97).

Naval Dockyard will be the main supplier of the Sakti gun to the armed forces in the Southeast Asia region.

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

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 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 the Exocet missiles in the country.

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

The fourth MoU signed was 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 will protect 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 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 fifth MoU signed was between PJS Industries Sdn Bhd and Paragon Mann Ltd (UK) for the design, building, promotion and marketing of the "Very Slender Vessels".

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

The sixth MOU was between Destination Marine Services Sdn Bhd and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia. 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 for the ECO bicycle, Malaysia's first battery operated bicycle.

(END)