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SIX MORE AGREEMENTS SIGNED AT LIMA '97

LANGKAWI, Dec 5 (Bernama) -- Six more agreements on aerospace and automobile ventures have been signed on the fourth day of LIMA '97 here today.

They were all witnessed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Khazanah Nasional Berhad and British Aerospace signed a cooperation agreement in developing Malaysia's capability in design and manufacture of aerospace products.

The cooperation will provide Malaysia with access to aerospace technologies and create technical skills and intellectual property for Malaysia to compete for international aerospace work and future aircraft programmes.

Khazanah Managing Director Tan Sri Mohd Sheriff Mohd Kassim signed on behalf of the government's investment arm while British Aerospace was represented by its managing director Allan MacDonald.

British Aerospace said the agreement provided for the establishment of a joint undertaking which may include investment by Khazanah in British Aerospace's wholly-owned Avro Regional Jet Business.

Meanwhile, Composites Technology Research Malaysia Sdn Bhd (CTRM) signed separate agreements with Perusahaan Otomobil Nasional Bhd (Proton), The Royal Selangor Flying Club (RSFC) and Denel Aviation Malaysia.

CTRM was represented by its chief executive officer, Tan Sri Dr Chen Lip Keong, while Proton, RSFC and Denel by Datuk Wira Salleh Sulong, Lt-Gen Datuk Nawi Alias and Johann Holdt respectively.

The agreement with Proton is to establish a subcontract manufacturing of composite parts by CTRM for Proton's Lotus Elise sports car. Currently, all parts are manufactured and sourced from the United Kingdom.

The agreement with RSFC is for the sale of two Eagle 150 aircraft to the flying club. It will be used by its members to fly for recreation purposes and training for the private pilot licence.

With Denel Aviation, CTRM hopes to enter into subcontract manufacturing on a long-term basis for composite components and to provide logistics support on these components for the Rooivalk combat helicopters.

Two other agreements involved Aerospace Industries Malaysia (AIM) with Hunting Aviation Ltd of UK on military flying training and Aero Invest of Germany to set up a business jet maintenance and completion centre. --

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MOK SHY