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Helicopter expo: Over half of exhibition stands taken up

ORGANISERS of Heli-Asia '98, the only dedicated helicopter exhibition in Asia Pacific, said over half of the 200 stands it is offering at the Mines International Exhibition Centre in Kuala Lumpur has been taken up by exhibitors.

Exhibitors include KGN Westland, GEC Marconi, Kaman Aerospace, MHS Aviation, Bristow Helicopters, Lucas Aerospace, Chadwick-Helmuth, Aviall and Aston Aviation.

The biennial Heli-Asia '98 is expected to be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on October 27. Indonesia's State Minister for Research and Technology Prof Dr B.J. Habibie will deliver the keynote address at the exhibition.

Heli-Asia project manager Karen Griffith, in a statement released in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, said the level of interest has been high ever since "we closed the doors at Heli-Asia '96."

"Asia Pacific region is now being one of the highest growth areas in the world for new helicopter sales."

Heli-Asia is open to both civil and military visitors on all three days. With the doubling of exhibitors, additional investment in visitor promotion and the success of the first exhibition in 1996, the organisers are expecting twice the attendance.

Heli-Asia chief executive Alexander Shepherd said the company has a strong commitment to Malaysia and the Asian region as a whole. "As a leading helicopter publisher in the Asia Pacific region, it is natural that we should continue to develop and invest in Heli-Asia.

"The region needs this strong international event to complement its growth in helicopter sales both in the civil and military markets." Alongside the exhibition, a series of specialist workshops will be available free of charge. These workshops will focus on civil helicopter subjects and the military community.

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