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Gauging perceptions of blueprint

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - The Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace exhibition, scheduled to be held between Nov 30 and Dec 5, will serve to gauge industry players' understanding of the National Aerospace Blueprint.

The blueprint, launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad during the last Lima two years ago, is aimed at charting Malaysia's transition into an aerospace hub by 2015.

The Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (Might), which was entrusted with the task of drawing up the blueprint, will use the biennial event to expand its network and exchange ideas on ways to implement the blueprint.

Might chief executive Dr Ahmed Tasir Lope Pihie said Lima '99 would be important as it would serve as an arena to implement the blueprint.

"It will also serve as a platform for Might and the local industry players to identify things and areas which are lacking, enabling us to initiate follow-through actions.

"We want to use Lima '99 to introduce the National Aerospace Blueprint to foreign companies. With the blueprint, they will know that Malaysia has a direction it wants to take," he said.

In 1995 Dr Mahathir requested Might to draw up the blueprint which was aimed at stimulating growth of the country's aerospace industry.

Ahmed Tasir said both Might and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Perkhidmatan Rundingan Industri Malaysia Sdn Bhd (Prima), will be setting up exhibition booths at Lima '99.

"Following Might and Prima's participation in Lima '99, we hope that we will be able to come into contact with more foreign producers, service providers and vendors and come up with new merchandising.

"We also hope that our involvement will open doors to several business negotiations and dealings which will augur well for our aim of making Malaysia an aerospace hub by 2015.

"The event can also be used as a benchmark to see how Malaysian companies are faring in comparison to the foreign giants and to see how far we are lagging behind," he added.

During Lima '99, Might is also expected to come out with its directories for aerospace and composite technology.

The directories, which will highlight the country's aerospace and composite players, are expected to be launched by Dr Mahathir.

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