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Lima-contracts

MALAYSIAN AEROSPACE EXPERTISE GOES INTERNATIONAL

LANGKAWI, Dec 1 (Bernama) -- Malaysian aerospace companies have entered the world stage with the inking of three landmark contracts against fierce international competition during the 1999 Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (Lima '99) show here.

British Aerospace executive vice-president for Malaysia Robert Kemp said today these companies ranked among the most competitive in the country.

They are;

* Exelnet, which won the first design work outside the United Kingdom for the sophisticated Nimrod 2000 maritime;

* CTRM, which was awarded contracts by British Aerospace-Airbus to provide composite technologies towards the Airbus wing development programme; and

* SME Aerospace, which would provide various wing parts for the Avro RJ regional airliner.

The contracts worth about RM50 million, although not huge, signified world recognition of the capabilities developed by the local companies, he said at the Lima '99 exposition here.

The six-day show, which attracted some 1,000 local, regional and international companies, including British Aerospace, was opened today by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

It was his first official function since steering the 14-party Barisan National (BN) coalition back into power in last Monday's general election.

Lima's maritime segment is organised by HW LIMA and the aerospace sector, LIMA Le Proton.

-- BERNAMA

TIM/GM RYN