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PM unveils new aerospace technologies company logo

HISTORY was created at Lima '99 when Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad unveiled the new aerospace technologies company, BAe Systems' logo.

The company was formally established on Monday through the merger of two giants, British Aerospace and Marconi Electronic Systems.

However, its new logo was unveiled to the world for the first time by Dr Mahathir on Tuesday at a simple ceremony held at the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre.

The new company becomes the world's second largest defence contractor and aerospace and defence company.

It is the most widespread of all aerospace and defence companies with more than 100,000 employees in nine countries.

BAe Systems director of public affairs Mark Ritson said the international launch of the new company was specially held in Langkawi as the exhibition coincided with the first day of operations.

"We had planned for the launch by Dr Mahathir to be held on Monday, but it was postponed due to the general election," said Ritson.

With a turnover of STG12.3 billion (RM74.1 billion), an order book of STG37.5 billion and a strong net market balance sheet, it has the financial power compatible with future market requirements.

BAe Systems has plans to expand its business in three key areas - customer support, commercial aircraft and defence systems. There is a growing demand for integrated systems solution and the company has strong competence in this vital area.

The new company has strong European links through the Airbus and Eurofighter programmes, the Matra BAe Dynamics and STN-Atlas joint ventures, stake in Saab, Alenia Marconi Systems, Thomson Marconi Sonar and Matra Marconi Space.

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