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Russians keen on helicopter venture

KAZAN Helicopters, the manufacturer of the Mi-17 multirole helicopters, will offer Malaysian companies the opportunity to produce components for its Ansat light multi-purpose rotary wing aircraft.

Described as a joint-venture proposal, the Russian manufacturer has assured its best technology transfer to Malaysia.

Kazan Helicopters marketing director Valery A. Pashko said the company was prepared to enter into a contract with any local company to assemble the Ansat light multi-purpose helicopter for the world market.

"We are also looking at the possibility of co-manufacturing the helicopter if the situation is right.

"We have faith in the Malaysian system and its economy ... the announcement that Malaysia is looking at acquiring up to 10 Mi-17s has strengthened our faith."

Malaysia's interest in the Mi-17 was renewed following Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed's visit to the Kazan Helicopter's plant in Ulan Ude.

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