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BAE boosts bond with our aerospace industry

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BAE SYSTEMS' track record in providing value-added aerospace partnership programmes for Malaysia's defence and aerospace industry underlines its long-term commitment towards the development of our country's core aerospace engineering capabilities.

Since the last Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (LIMA) show in 1999, BAE SYSTEMS has further strengthened the bond with Malaysia's aerospace industry through a series of value-added aerospace contracts related to world-beating systems.

Composite Technology Research Malaysia Sdn Bhd (CTRM), Malaysia's leading aerospace composite manufacturer, signed a contract agreement with BAE SYSTEMS in August this year to manufacture wing parts for the Airbus A318, A319, A320 and A321 range of aircraft.

The contract, valued at RM100 million for the first five years and up to RM500 million in the longer term confirms CTRM as the Airbus Leading Edge and Trailing Edge composite manufacturer in Malaysia through its wholly owned subsidiary company, Aero-Composites Technologies Sdn Bhd (ACT).

This most recent contract comes on the back of many others signed between BAE SYSTEMS and local manufacturing companies such as SMEA and SMEO on aerospace and defence-related equipment over the past 18 months.

In February this year, Sungai Buloh-based aerospace engineering specialists SMEA delivered the first batch of Malaysian-manufactured sub-assemblies for the BAE SYSTEMS AVRO RJ aircraft.

SMEA received the contract to produce AVRO RJ wing leading edges and carriage assemblies in October 1999. Over the first 10 months, pre-production activities including the CNC programming of some 500 detail parts, design and manufacture of 370 jigs, fixtures and special tools, and developing the related manufacturing process documents, had all been successfully undertaken by SME Aerospace under guidance of its UK-based partner.

Martin Chandler, BAE SYSTEMS vice-president for Malaysia, said these investments and partnerships are set to continue in line with BAE SYSTEMS philosophy of Partnership in Action.

Underlying these partnerships is a true commitment to technology transfer.

"In working with Malaysian industry BAE SYSTEMS has seen Malaysia's aerospace capability evolve from a manufacturing base into an advanced technology base that is a force to be reckoned with worldwide.

"Already our Malaysian partners are bidding for and winning high value contracts that go beyond standard component machining and assembly.

"Capabilities in composite materials, aerospace design-to-build and high tech wing technologies are all becoming commonplace in Malaysia thanks to the dedication and commitment of local teams.

"BAE SYSTEMS enters the new millennium with a firm commitment that the relationships between the company and its partners in Malaysia will continue to flourish," he said.

Drawn together from a range world-leading aircraft and defence equipment manufacturers over the past four decades, BAE SYSTEMS is renowned for its technological prowess, innovation, strong customer relations and success in forming partnerships across industrial and international borders.

In the two years since Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad unveiled BAE SYSTEMS, new brand at LIMA 99, the company has gone through

significant changes.

BAE SYSTEMS chairman Sir Richard Evans said "over the past two years, BAE SYSTEMS has undergone a transformation in line with our strategy to develop into a global systems, defence and aerospace business.

"As we gather once again at LIMA I am pleased to state that BAE SYSTEMS has developed into a business with remarkable global coverage and with the highest levels of capability in delivering integrated systems solutions for our customers," he said.

Together with its partners, BAE SYSTEMS has played a crucial role in many world-class aerospace and defence programmes.

Covering both European and trans-Atlantic partnerships, BAE SYSTEMS involvement is exemplified by programmes such as Airbus, Eurofighter Typhoon, Storm Shadow and Harrier.

It is the success of these relationships that has provided the foundations for future developments such the Airbus A380; the next generation military airlifter, A400M and the beyond visual range air-to-air missile, Meteor.

Such partnerships allow the company to offer its customers a choice of solutions to meet their requirements and satisfy any systems needs that they might have on land, at sea and in the air.

BAE SYSTEMS continues to be a sought-after partner because of the skills of its employees and the company's high-level of technical capability.

By working with the best people and companies in the business, BAE SYSTEMS develops and delivers capabilities, both individually and in partnership, to meet the most complex and demanding requirements of its customers.

Continued investment in technology, programmes and relationships will ensure that BAE SYSTEMS and its partners remain at the heart of high technology developments well into the future.

By generating critical mass in key technologies, BAE SYSTEMS has created a central focus for research and development investment.

The combined know-how, allied to systems capabilities and enhanced financial strength, will enable the company to work as, and be seen as, an essential partner in any major global aerospace or defence programme in the future.

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