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LIMA-Amphibian

BUMI COMPANY TO BUILD AND MARKET AMPHIBIAN AIRCRAFT

By: Mohd Haikal Mohd Isa

LANGKAWI, Oct 11 (Bernama) -- A fully owned Bumiputera company, Flying Power Aircraft Manufacturing Sdn Bhd will set up a factory to build amphibian aircraft for markets in Malaysia and other countries in Southeast Asia.

Its Vice President (Finance) Azlan Zahari Mohd Zahid said the company had spent RM41.8 million to acquire the rights to build the aircraft in Malaysia from Lake Aircraft of the United States.

"The agreement with Lake Aircraft will be signed on Saturday and witnessed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad," he told Bernama here today.

Azlan said the company had also appointed Goldfields Sdn Bhd to market the aircraft in Asia.

The company's factory will be sited in Subang-Sungai Buloh industrial site with the first aircraft to roll out nine months after operations.

The RM30 million factory will build six-seater amphibian aircraft of the versions of Seawolf, Sea Fury and Renegade within the price range of US\$750,000 (RM2.85 million) and US\$1.5 million (RM5.7 million) each.

The aircraft could be used by both the military and civilian, including fire and rescue department.

He said there were over 1500 of the aircraft being used worldwide including by the U.S. military.

He said manufacturing facilities in Malaysia would only be involved in the construction of the aircraft's frame and landing gears with the avionics, engine and propellers to be produced by the original manufacturer.

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