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LIMA-CTRM

CTRM AND PARTNERS REVEALS MALAYSIAN-MADE EAGLE ARV AT LIMA

By: Mohd Faizal Zakariah

Langkawi, Oct 8 (Bernama) -- Composites Technology Research Malaysia Sdn Bhd (CTRM) and its partners would be unveiling a Malaysian-made and the region's first aerial reconnaissance vehicle, called Eagle ARV System on Wednesday at the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace exhibition (LIMA 2001).

The Eagle ARV System is jointly developed by CTRM, BAE Systems and Excelnet Sdn Bhd. The RM47 million project was officially sealed in a contract on June 8, 2001 between CTRM and the Ministry of Defence (Mindef) to develop the programme.

The aircraft would be launched on the opening day of the LIMA 2001 by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. It would then be demonstrated during its inaugural flight.

The Eagle ARV System utilises Malaysia's composite Eagle 150B aircraft as the platform and each system comprises of three Eagle 150B equipped with a surveillance systems, ground control station and a remote receiving station.

CTRM chief executive officer Tan Sri Chen Lip Keong said that the project proved Malaysia's capabilities in the highly complex unmanned airborne vehicle (UAV) industry that is increasingly gaining great importance in both the defence and civilian market worldwide.

"It paves the way for CTRM as a fledging aerospace company to further establish its name as a world class player in the aviation industry," he said in a statement here today.

"Soon the very first system will enter into service with the Malaysian Armed Forces and the company will seek additional sales from potential customers locally. The system has tremendous export potential and we will spearhead an international marketing campaign in conjunction with BAE Systems offices worldwide," he said.

In the same statement, BAE Systems group marketing director Sir Charles Masefield, said the partnership hoped to deliver the first Eagle ARV production to the Malaysian government on schedule early next year.

Using BAE System's global marketing network, the three companies are already identifying and engaging key markets where Eagle ARV can bring surveillance benefits to export customers, he said.

The system can be operated both manned and unmanned with capabilities for day and night operations. It offers flexibility in its operation and can be utilised for military objectives such as battlefield management, command, control and communications surveillance.

The Eagle ARV System can also be used in civilian roles such as environmental protection, border patrol, maritime surveillance, airborne police patrols, air and rescue operations and ordinance surveys. All the applications would be provided in real time and interactive video imagery.

With the attributes, the system can play a vital role in enhancing the decision making process and increase the responsiveness and deployment of personnel on the ground.

The six-day LIMA 2001, which begins tomorrow features products and services of 120 exhibitors, involving 360 companies representing 26 countries. Most major companies occupy 20 national pavilions.

CTRM is Malaysia's premier composite aircraft manufacturer and produces the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA)-certified two seater Eagle 150B aircraft and the four seater Lancair Columbia 300 aircraft. It is a major

international supplier of aerospace quality composite components. --

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