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Lima-ARV

EAGLE ARV SYSTEM TO BOOST MALAYSIA'S SURVEILLANCE CAPABILITY

LANGKAWI, Oct 6 (Bernama) -- The country's surveillance capability is expected to be further enhanced with the introduction of the Eagle aerial remote vehicle (ARV) system, product of a joint venture between Composite Technology Research Malaysia (CTRM) and Excelnet and its foreign partner, BAE Systems.

BAE Systems director of marketing and public affairs, Mark Ritson said that the Malaysian armed forces would be the first to acquire the Eagle ARV but the system could be customised to suit the needs of other surveillance-related agencies.

Apart from military use, in terms of carrying out surveillance of Malaysia's long coastline, the Eagle ARV would be effective in spotting forest fires, oil spills and for other environmental purposes, he told Bernama here today.

Malaysia agreed to acquire a single system of the Eagle ARV for use of its armed forces in June this year. The system is due for delivery next year.

The system, first developed last year, comprises an Eagle aircraft, a radar tracker, a remote receiver station and a ground control station.

The unmanned Eagle aircraft, which was first constructed as a twin-seater basic training aircraft before undergoing modification, can provide its ground controllers real-time coloured video images of the ground from a height of 16,000 ft and capable of covering an area within a radius of 250 km.

"But its capability could be further enhanced," said one of the ground controllers.

The Eagle ARV could remain on air for 10 hours, he said.

Ritson also said that the joint-venture company would promote the Eagle ARV abroad as there was vast potential for the system to be adopted in other countries especially maritime nations.

At the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace exhibition (Lima 2001), to be held here from Tuesday to Sunday, he said, the joint-venture company would organise a demonstration for the trade delegation on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohammad is scheduled to attend.

-- BERNAMA

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