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Lardac lands jet contract

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, yesterday witnessed the signing ceremony between the Government and the Langkawi R&D Academy Sdn Bhd (Lardac) to upgrade the Royal Malaysian Air Force's F-5E/F Tiger II fighter jets.

Signing the contract on behalf of the Government were Defence Ministry secretary-general Datuk Hashim Meon and deputy secretary-general Datuk Subhan Jasmon, while Lardac were represented by chairman Datuk Zawawi Ismail and president Mohamad Abdullah.

The ceremony was conducted at the maritime division of the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace 2001 exhibition at the Awana Porto Malai.

The contract, which entails avionics upgrading and radar enhancement, is valued at RM48 million.

Currently, one F-5F is being upgraded and upon the successful demonstration of its enhanced capabilities, Lardac is expected to upgrade nine F-5Es from the 15 aircraft in service.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir also witnessed the issue of a Letter of Award from Penang Port Sdn Bhd to Penang Shipbuilding Corporation Sdn Bhd for the supply, delivery, testing and commissioning of six units of eight wheeled rubber tyred gantries (RTG) for its North Butterworth container terminal. The contract is worth RM22million.

Penang Port was represented by managing director Datuk Ahmad Ibni Hajar; PSC by group managing director Azlan Shah Omar Shah.

Another Business Focus group subsidiary company, Business Focus Marine System Sdn Bhd signed a Strategic Alliance agreement with Financial and Industrial Group of Russia (FIG) for the production of hydrofoils and ekranaoplans for the local and Asean markets.

BFMS will have the right to use the designs provided by FIG to market and construct the vessels.

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