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PM launches local-made Eagle URV

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad hopes the partnership between Composite Technology Research Malaysia Sdn Bhd, Excelnet and BAE Systems will proceed beyond the Eagle Unmanned Reconnaissance Vehicle (URV).

"I hope to see future ventures in this partnership," he said when launching the pilotless aircraft at the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (LIMA) 2001 show yesterday.

Dr Mahathir said the market for URVs is endless as it can be utilised not only in the time of war but also has potential during time of peace. "The world will be seeing more and more pilotless aircraft. We also see fighter jets that are pilotless," he added.

The Eagle URV is produced in Malaysia for the Malaysian Armed Forces. It is said to be the most cost-effective unmanned aerial surveillance and reconnaissance solution available today.

As well as supporting military objectives such as battlespace management and command, control and communications, the Eagle URV can be used for peacetime roles such as environmental protection, border patrol, maritime surveillance, airborne police patrols, air and sea rescue operations and ordinance surveys.

The tactical surveillance area, whether military or commercial, can be comprehensively monitored with no risk to the pilot or navigator as the operation is managed by remote control from an area of complete safety.

When the occasion demands, the Eagle URV aircraft can be transported and operated by a cockpit-based pilot.

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