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Syabas Malaysia

LIMA 2001 will go down in history as the event during which Malaysia's very own aerial reconnaissance aircraft was unveiled.

The Eagle ARV, ordered by the Ministry of Defence, is to be unveiled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tomorrow.

Dr Mahathir is also expected to witness the inaugural unmanned flight of the aircraft which has been locally produced by Composites Technology Research Malaysia, Excelnet and BAE SYSTEMS of Great Britain-UK.

This will be the first time that an ARV will be unveiled and flown at an airshow.

The Eagle ARV will be Malaysia's very own eye-in-the-sky, assisting the Government in improving coastal and border patrol, as well as its fight against border incursions, illegal logging, illegal trafficking and maritime piracy.

In addition, the aircraft can also be used to identify sources of water and air pollution and assist in disaster area communications and air/sea rescue scenarios.

Each Eagle ARV system comprises three aircraft, a ground control station and a remote receiving station.

The aircraft can be operated in both manned and unmanned configuration, offering full flexibility when relocating base operations and establishing surveillance routines.

In its unmanned configuration, Eagle ARV is controlled from the ground control station in real-time up to a distance of 250km and for up to 10 hours without refueling.

Its operating ceiling is 8,500 metres.

The system allows the operator to identify a wide range of images and footage during the day and at night, which are then sent to the ground control station where it is recorded and transmitted to remote command and control stations.

The agreement to develop the ARV, which will cost RM47 million, was signed between Composites Technologies Research Malaysia Sdn Bhd and the Defence Ministry on June 8.

CTRM hopes to secure orders for additional systems in Malaysia and abroad after its unveiling at LIMA 2001.

With the combined efforts of BAE SYSTEMS and CTRM, Eagle ARV is a world class product, said CTRM chief executive officer Tan Sri Dr Chen Lip Keong.

"With the Malaysian Government encouraging knowledge-based, capital intensive, high technology industries, the Eagle ARV is cost effective and has export potential.

"I am happy we can deliver Eagle ARV to the Malaysian Government on time, within budget and as per specifications," he added.

Sir Charles Masefield, who heads BAE SYSTEMS' extensive worldwide marketing operation, and his team will be working with CTRM to identify and engage key markets where Eagle ARV can bring surveillance benefits to export customers.

"Our involvement in Eagle ARV extends beyond the high technology systems integration expertise we bring to the programme. BAE SYSTEMS is respected worldwide for the breadth and depth of its marketing operations."

The CTRM sales team will be able to tap into any one of our regional offices in order to gain access to export opportunities. "We're proud of our

engineering role in bringing Eagle ARV to LIMA 2001 and we can now help Malaysia bring the system to the attention of the world market," he said.  
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