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Bombardier CL 415 turns it on for Dr M

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Bombardier Aerospace today demonstrated the capabilities of its amphibious aircraft, witnessed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Bombardier 415 skimmed over the the Mines Resort lake, scooping water which was later released as the aircraft showed its primary role as an aerial firefighter.

It made a few drops, demonstrating its very low altitude manoeuvres and high bank angle capability for mountainous terrain.

The demonstration was earlier delayed by 30 minutes when the aircraft developed mechanical problems.

The plane, which the company hopes to sell to Malaysia for use by the Fire and Rescue Department, costs RM95 million each.

Powered by two Pratt & Whitney engines, the Bombardier 415 requires only 12 seconds to scoop 6,137 litre load while skimming at high speed over any suitable body of water.

It can deliver 55,260 litres of fire suppressant.