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Eagle eager to perform

THE Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) will demonstrate its newly-acquired Eagle Airborne Reconnaissance aircraft and will be flying it unmanned during the daily air display at Lima 2003.

Produced by Composites Technology Research Malaysia (CTRM) in partnership with BAE Systems, the Eagle ARV was initially unveiled at Lima 2001 during a presentation attended by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The system has since entered service with the RMAF and is used for surveillance operations off the coast of Sabah and Sarawak.

The Eagle ARV was developed and engineered from the CTRM Eagle 150 trainer aircraft using avionics from BAE Systems. It can be used for battlespace command and control, coastal and border patrols, offshore policing of illegal trafficking and piracy, and for the identification of water and air pollution sources.

The system is also ideal for fire spotting, air, land and sea rescue operations, crowd surveillance and management, ordinance survey and disaster area management and communication.

The Eagle ARV system can be operated in 'manned' configuration with an RMAF pilot in the cockpit or alternatively, it can be flown 'pilotless', controlled remotely from a ground control station.

The on-board surveillance system comprises an infrared camera and spotter scope which provide clear and close-up images of the ground from altitudes up to 3,600m. The images are relayed from the aircraft to the ground control station where the commander can monitor and analyse the data, recommending action to networked agencies where necessary.

The Eagle ARV system comprises three Eagle aircraft and one Ground Control station.

The system is available for export and CTRM is working towards a number of regional and international sales in the near future.

Visitors to Lima 2003 will be invited to witness the flights daily in a customised demonstration area where they will be able to see surveillance images transferred from the aircraft to the ground.