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THE OFFICIAL SHOW DAILY

ASELSAN Expand Asia-Pacific Footprint To Boost Global Presence



MG Mahmud

ASELSAN, Turkiye's leading defence manufacturer, continues to expand its footprint in global markets, especially in the Asia-Pacific region, with a strong presence and an extensive line-up of a range of

products. This is due to the region becoming increasingly important for the company's export strategy.

ASELSAN president and **CEO Ahmet Akyol** said the company is committed to fostering defence industry collaboration between Malaysia and Turkiye.

"Our participation in defence exhibitions in the Asia-Pacific region firmly signal ASELSAN's dedication to strengthening ties by providing cutting-edge solutions. This is to meet the technological needs of not just Malaysia but other regional countries as well," he said.

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VR Universal To Supply SIG Sauer Pistols To Malaysian Army

MALAYSIAN defence and security contractor VR Universal Sdn Bhd has been awarded a contract to supply, test and commission 9mm combat pistols for the Malaysian Army.

The two-year contract involving 1,500 sets of SIG Sauer P320-M17 (with 21-round magazines), commenced in March this year. It was awarded after VR Universal's visit to SIG Sauer booth during Eurosatory 2024 in June last year, where company officials accompanied a delegation of Malaysian Army officers, led by Chief of Army, General Muhammad Hafizuddeain Jantan. ♦



Malaysian Army's Chief of Army General Muhammad Hafizuddeain (3rd from left), with VR Universal executive director Ken Bong (at left), its chairman David Law (2nd from left) and SIG Sauer global defence sales (Asia-Pacific) director Jon Abramovic (4th from left).

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INSIDE...
Show Floor Plan



Navigating the Future

Integrated
Naval & Satellite
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System Solutions



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"We have been attending the LIMA show for years. Maybe this is the sixth or seventh time but this is the first time we are showcasing ASELSAN's air defence concept. This is an integrated air defence solution which we call Steel Dome. Air defence is one of the key areas for ASELSAN and Steel Dome is an integrated air defence system.

Akyol said other products include synthetic aperture radars (SAR) radars, 4D research radars, and jamming pods to counter unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) of different threat levels distances and heights. The company is also showcasing avionics for helicopters and other aircraft types. ASELSAN is also displaying its range of guidance kits including laser, INS guidance and GPS guidance. All these can be integrated for payloads of various types of aircraft.

For naval platforms, he said the company have combat management systems, fire control systems, sensors and weapon systems some of which have been delivered to operators – both in Turkey and international customers and partners including in the Malaysia Littoral Mission Ship (LMS) project.

Also, for maritime platforms the company has remote-controlled weapons SMASH and GOKDENIZ close in weapons systems (CIWS).

"The main idea is to eliminate drones and cruise missiles in a cost-effective way by using smart ammunition. With the ammunition family and the air defence systems such as GOKDENIZ and KORKUT we have a very effective weapon to counter swarm attacks or Kamikaze attacks by drones," he added.



ASELSAN is also showcasing its UUV unmanned underwater vehicle Deringoz for the first time in LIMA.

On joint-cooperation, Akyol said: "The company has signed several agreements with local companies. At LIMA'25 we will sign four teaming agreements with local companies. The main purpose is to increase local contribution."

He noted that Malaysia is in a position that can serve the company as a strategic hub for the company's growth plans in Asia-Pacific,

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adding that the company believes that it is well positioned to capitalise on emerging opportunities and deepen its engagement in the region, with over two decades of presence in the Malaysian market and the establishment of ASELSAN Malaysian Sdn Bhd in 2017.

Akyol said the longstanding cooperation between Malaysia and Türkiye in the defence industry provides a solid foundation for the company's further push into the region. ASELSAN, he said, aims to enhance its market share and establish itself as a key player in Malaysia's defence industry landscape.

"By leveraging our national systems and expertise, we seek to elevate Malaysia's defence capabilities and contribute to the country's advancement in the global defence arena," Akyol said.

It was reported that the contracts include the sale of remote-controlled weapon systems for both land and sea platforms, as well as radars, inertial navigation systems, friend-or-foe identification systems, and electronic warfare suites. "ASELSAN has signed export agreements with its customers in the Asia-Pacific region, totaling US\$44,397,467," the statement noted.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan earlier during his visit to Malaysia has highlighted Malaysia as a key strategic partner ahead of his official visit, reaffirming Türkiye's commitment to strengthening bilateral ties and cooperation on global issues. ♦



ANKA UAS Industrial Collaboration Programme Obligation Satisfied

TURKISH Aerospace formally accepted No 11 Squadron hangar from Malaysian company G7 Aerospace after completion of 12-month renovation works. The hangar, which later will be handed back to the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) as Anka unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) main operating base, is to be delivered as part of Anka UAS main contract.

In a brief handing over ceremony witnessed by the Prime Minister of Malaysia Anwar Ibrahim at LIMA'25 yesterday, the hangar renovation is one of 11 projects under ICP associated with Anka UAS purchased by the Government of Malaysia two years ago.

G7 Aerospace said the hangar renovation is a major delivery milestone which signifies Turkish Aerospace commitment to its ICP obligation. Other ICP projects which are nearing completion include Ground Data Terminal (GDT) installation at five sites in East Malaysia, manufacturing of Ground Support Equipment (GSE) and supply of security drone systems, all of which are contracted to G7 worth US\$4.33 million in terms of local content.

"According to Turkish Aerospace, G7 Aerospace has proven its capability to deliver the ICP projects and this has become the basis for our long-term partnership which will later extend to future acquisitions such



as Aksungur UCAV, Hurjet trainer and the fifth-generation Kaan fighter jets. To begin with, Turkish Aerospace is considering appointing G7 as its partner for the supply of Anka GSEs to regional operators."

G7 Aerospace was established in 2010, and "has been at the forefront of delivering engineering and logistics support solutions to aerospace and defence customers". Its quality management system is AS9100/ISO9001 certified for Aviation, Space & Defence whereas its DGTA and CAAM

certifications are to serve the military and civil aviation respectively. The company delivers high-quality, broad spectrum aerospace and defence products and services employing its highly skilled workforce, made up of veterans and young graduates. Its services include Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO); Avionics Modifications and Upgrades; Unmanned Systems, and Sustainment Engineering. ♦

MMC 25 Discuss Robust, Forward-Looking Governance Frameworks For Maritime Prosperity

THE Malaysia Maritime Conference 2025 (MMC 25) was held yesterday at the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre (MIEC), jointly organised by the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN), a key player in the nation's maritime affairs, and LIMA'25 co-organiser Global Exhibition & Conference Sdn Bhd. The conference was officiated by the Defence Minister of Malaysia, Mohamed Khaled Nordin, and witnessed by the Chief of Navy, Admiral Dr Zulhelmy Ithnain, along with 250 invited guests and participants.

Since its inception in 2019, the Malaysia Maritime Conference (MMC) has evolved into a flagship event, mirroring the nation's ambitions to emerge as a global maritime power. Originally launched as the National Maritime Conference, the MMC has undergone a significant transformation in scope and ambition. Now an internationally-attended event, it serves as a crucial platform to align national maritime priorities with global best practices while celebrating Malaysia's rich maritime heritage. This growth and transformation instilled a sense of pride and optimism about Malaysia's maritime future.

Yesterday's conference was themed

"Synergising Good Governance Through Effective Policy for Maritime Prosperity" and discussed two main topics: "Harnessing the Blue Economy" and "Charting Maritime Policy". The theme and topics chosen were intended to continue to dignify Malaysia as a maritime nation.

In his welcoming remarks, Mohamed Khaled said: "This conference is a crucial platform for exchanging ideas, fostering partnership and refining policies to propel Malaysia forward as a prosperous maritime nation". The MMC 25 has gathered local and international stakeholders in national maritime affairs, namely government officials, maritime agencies, think tanks, industry players and academic institutions.

The first session deliberated on "Harnessing the Blue Economy", exploring innovative strategies via constructive engagement for sustainable resource

management and economic collaboration. With global sustainability goals in focus, experts discussed how to unlock the full potential of Malaysia's maritime resources while protecting marine ecosystems. The conference was privileged to have prominent panel speakers for this topic, namely Rear

Admiral Mohd Fadzil Kamal Mohd Mohaldin from Operation and Training Division of the RMN Headquarters, Handan Ramli from PETRONAS, Dr Do Thanh Hai from the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, Dr Young Kil Park from the Korean Maritime Institute and moderated by Dr Adina Kamarudin from the Maritime Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Meanwhile, the second session discussed "Charting Maritime Policy" and examined the complexities of maritime policymaking. From success stories to hard-learned lessons, speakers shared actionable insights to help refine Malaysia's maritime policies and governance approaches. The panel speakers were Professor Stuart Kaye from University of Wollongong, Air Vice Marshall Dr Jorry S Koloay from Centre for Strategic, Research and Development of Indonesian Defence Forces,

Professor Atsuko Kanehara from Canon Institute for Global Studies, Vice Admiral (Retd) Ahmed Saeed from National Institute of Maritime Affairs (Pakistan) and moderated by First Admiral Mohd Yusri Yusoff from Naval Future Force Office of RMN Headquarters. ♦



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GTA: Aiming To Lead Engine MRO In SEA And Beyond

GLOBAL Turbine Asia Sdn Bhd chairman **Nonee Ashirin Mohd Radzi** shares her vision for the company with the *ADJ Today*...

ADJ: How has GTA evolved under your leadership in recent years, and what is your strategic vision for its next phase of growth?

NA: Under my leadership, GTA has evolved from being a niche maintenance, repair and operations (MRO) player to becoming a strategic partner for both the regional defence and civil aviation sectors. The next phase of our growth will focus on technological innovation, regional expansion, and enhancing workforce capabilities to meet the increasing demand.

Since assuming the role of executive chairman, my primary focus has been to ensure that GTA not only maintains technical excellence but also stays strategically aligned with Malaysia's long-term industrial and defence goals. Over the past few years, GTA has developed into a mature, high-performance MRO organisation, delivering consistent, safe outcomes for our clients while solidifying our position within the local aerospace ecosystem.

We are expanding our engine capabilities and actively collaborating with government bodies at both the local and national levels to ensure that our growth and operations align with broader industrial and defence policies. In addition, we are strengthening our operational governance. More importantly, we have invested in developing local talent, building a resilient and adaptable team that is well-equipped to scale regionally.

Looking ahead, my vision is clear: to transform GTA into Southeast Asia's preferred engine MRO centre of excellence, underpinned by world-class services, state-of-the-art facilities, digital innovation, and strategic partnerships. The next phase of our growth will focus on regional expansion, increasing in-country capabilities, and supporting Malaysia's ambition to become a regional aviation and aerospace powerhouse.

ADJ: With ambitions to become the leading MRO partner in ASEAN and the wider Asia-Pacific, what are the key pillars of GTA's expansion strategy?

NA: GTA's expansion strategy is built on four key pillars, each aimed at positioning the company as the leading MRO partner in the region:

- **Innovation:** By investing in research and development, digitalisation (Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things and so on), and smart engineering, GTA is driving aerospace industry



advancements. These innovations not only set the company apart as a leader in MRO services but also attract top talent and foster future growth in ASEAN aerospace.

- **Partnership:** Strategic collaborations with government agencies and industry leaders ensure that GTA's growth is aligned with national and regional priorities. These partnerships help develop talent, impact industry policy, and position Malaysia at the forefront of the global aerospace sector, strengthening GTA's role as a key player in MRO.
- **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion:** The company's commitment to a diverse and inclusive workforce supports its goal of becoming a leader in the MRO industry. By breaking down barriers and creating an environment where all talent can thrive, GTA is building a more innovative, resilient, and future-ready organisation.
- **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR):** GTA's CSR efforts, including investment in education, community development and workforce empowerment, ensure that the company contributes to the social fabric of Malaysia and beyond. By empowering underserved groups, such as veterans, youth and women to enter the aerospace sector, the company strengthens its talent pool and enhances its reputation as a responsible leader in the MRO space.

ADJ: In an increasingly crowded aerospace MRO landscape, how does your company position itself to stand out both domestically and regionally?

NA: Our positioning is unique. We are a defence-capable engine specialist with

extensive experience in high-performance rotorcraft and transport aircraft engines. We offer clients the assurance of original equipment manufacturer (OEM) standards, local proximity, and alignment with national priorities – an exceptional combination that few can match. Our responsiveness, reliability and ability to customise solutions also differentiate us, particularly in the military sector where minimising downtime is critical.

Furthermore, we are the strategic partner of Safran Helicopter Engines, which strengthens our position as a global leader in aerospace. This partnership allows us to introduce the latest tools, knowledge and methodologies to the Malaysian context. In essence, GTA combines the best of global expertise with a deep commitment to local needs.

ADJ: What is your outlook for the civil and defence MRO sectors this year – in Malaysia, across Asia-Pacific, and globally?

NA: The aerospace MRO sector is entering a robust recovery phase globally. In civil aviation, the growth of air travel post-pandemic is driving a significant increase in demand for engine maintenance. Operators are also becoming more cost-conscious, which gives a competitive edge to regional players like GTA. Malaysia is well-positioned to become a regional MRO hub, and GTA is poised to take a leadership role in this space. We anticipate more cross-border collaborations and growing interest from foreign operators seeking reliable partners in the Asia-Pacific region.

ADJ: How is GTA leveraging innovation and emerging technologies to future-proof its operations and deliver greater value to clients?

NA: Innovation is no longer optional in the aerospace industry; it is a prerequisite for competitiveness. At GTA, we are future-proofing our operations through data integration, smart diagnostics, and automation.

We are developing a digital MRO initiative that will enable real-time service tracking, provide predictive maintenance insights, and facilitate smarter planning for our customers. Internally, we are digitising workflows and exploring the use of Augmented Reality-based tools to enhance training and

inspection processes.

Beyond digitalisation, we are also rethinking sustainability by optimising material usage, reducing waste and lowering our environmental footprint. All of this is part of our broader vision to evolve from a traditional MRO provider into a smart, agile and environmentally responsible aerospace company.

ADJ: How is GTA aligning its growth with Malaysia's national aerospace agenda, and what role do you see the company playing in

advancing the local ecosystem?

NA: GTA is aligned with Malaysia's Aerospace Blueprint 2030, particularly in advancing localisation efforts and skills development initiatives. We are committed to supporting Malaysia's aspirations by contributing to the enhancement of the national aerospace ecosystem. This includes driving job creation, facilitating technology transfer, and positioning Malaysia as a regional MRO hub of excellence. ♦

MyAERO Digital To Advance Aerospace Supply Chain Digitalisation

THE National Aerospace Industry Corporation Malaysia (NAICO Malaysia), an agency under Malaysia's Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI), yesterday officially launched MyAERO Digital, a national aerospace supply chain platform designed to strengthen Malaysia's competitiveness in high-value aerospace manufacturing and Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul (MRO) services.

The launch took place during the MyAERO Conference @ LIMA'25, officiated by Deputy Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI) Liew Chin Tong. Also present were NAICO Malaysia CEO Prof Ts Shamsul Kamar Abu Samah, its director Ir Abdul Rashid Musa, and Selangor state Investment, Trade & Mobility executive council member Ng Sze Han.

MyAERO Digital, built on the Dassault

Systemes 3DEXPERIENCE platform, is a customised Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) solution tailored for Malaysia's aerospace ecosystem. Developed in collaboration with Feiran Technology, the platform provides a secure, unified digital environment to manage the entire aerospace product lifecycle – from design to certification, production and end-of-life.

The platform enhances collaboration between OEMs and suppliers, streamlining processes such as change management, Bill of Materials (BOM), and regulatory compliance (e.g. AS9100). It also improves visibility and traceability, strengthens data integrity, and helps aerospace companies align with MITI's New Industrial Master Plan 2030 (NIMP 2030) and the Malaysian Aerospace Industry Blueprint 2030 (MAIB 2030).

The launch follows YB Minister MITI's announcement at the Malaysia Aerospace Council 1/2025, citing RM25.1 billion in aerospace industry revenue for 2024, with MRO and parts manufacturing as major contributors. As digitalisation becomes essential to meet increasing demand and complexity, MyAERO Digital serves as a strategic enabler to modernise Malaysia's aerospace supply chain.

"NAICO Malaysia extends its appreciation to Dassault Systemes and Feiran Technology for delivering a solution that meets the current and future needs of the national aerospace industry," says the company, an agency under MITI, with a mandate to develop and position Malaysia as the preferred aerospace economy in Southeast Asia, and an integral part of the global aerospace value chain by 2030. ♦



RMAF Chief General Mohd Asghar Khan personally flew the Sukhoi Su-30MKM with a special livery during the opening of LIMA'25.



DSA 2026 & NATSEC Asia 2026 Continue Supporting Malaysia's Defence Diplomacy, Industry Development

DSA Exhibition and Conference Sdn Bhd gears up for its two upcoming exhibitions next year – the 19th edition of the Defense Services Asia Exhibition & Conference (DSA 2026) and the fourth edition of National Security Asia 2026 (NATSEC Asia 2026), Asia's premier national security exhibition. Both will be held concurrently on Apr 20-23, 2026, at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre (MITEC), Kuala Lumpur.

On Tuesday, *Asian Defence Journal* sat down with the company's executive director **Nadzeem Abdul Rahman**, to gain early insights into what to expect in 2026, the strategic direction of the event, and how it continues to support Malaysia's defence diplomacy and industry development.

ADJ: DSA and NATSEC Asia have grown steadily in size and impact over the years. Could you share with us what the main themes or focus areas will be for the 2026 edition, and how it will build upon the successes of 2024?

NAR: DSA and NATSEC Asia 2026 will continue to strengthen their position as leading platforms in the defence and national security ecosystem by focusing on key priorities such as regional defence cooperation, technological advancements and resilience in national and homeland security.

For the 2026 editions, we are placing special emphasis on emerging domains including space defence, integrated command and control systems, and unmanned technologies. These focus areas build upon the momentum of the successful 2024 edition, which saw high-level delegations, strong industry participation, and insightful engagements across both military and non-military domains. Our objective is to further enhance the strategic value of the exhibitions in supporting national capability development and international collaboration.

ADJ: What are the early responses or commitments from international exhibitors and delegations for DSA and NATSEC Asia 2026, and how do you see the event playing a role in further boosting regional participation?

NAR: The response has been overwhelmingly positive. We are already witnessing strong interest from returning exhibitors and new participants, including

key defence and security players from all around the globe. We had very good participation overall for the last edition, which was a historical record on its own. We had about 1,300 companies, 34 national pavilions and around 48 national participations. We had over 600 delegations from 41 nations, which all in all, contributed to the success of the event.

We will try to aim for 10% more participation for these upcoming events, probably 1,400 companies. At this moment, about 65% of our target has been achieved. We invited over 70 nations, and we have gotten confirmation from countries such as the USA, UK, Turkey, China, South Korea, Australia with even participation requests from Russia and Iran. We are progressing in the right direction and we should be able to reach our target.

Regional participation continues to grow as well, with ASEAN member states recognising DSA and NATSEC Asia as pivotal platforms for engagement. The events support not only business opportunities but also strategic dialogues that are crucial for fostering regional security cooperation and interoperability.

Firstly, we hope to achieve more overall participation and secondly, we want to expand beyond it. We have extended an invitation to all the South Asian nations as well and to all the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. Next, we will also extend to the African nations.

ADJ: The global defence landscape is constantly evolving, particularly with the rise of dual-use technologies and cyber defence. How is DSA 2026 curating its exhibitor profile and conference tracks to reflect these emerging priorities?

NAR: DSA 2026 is themed "Enhancing Capabilities and Resilience Through Technology", focusing on innovation in cyber defence, AI and unmanned systems. Our exhibitor profile includes cutting-edge solutions in cybersecurity, robotics, and dual-use tech, among others.

A key highlight is the UAV, Drone & Robotic Pavilion, which showcases autonomous systems and AI applications for modern defence. There are also tech talks, forums, and live demos to promote collaboration on future threats and solutions. It's all about connecting global stakeholders to tackle evolving challenges through technology.

Tomorrow (May 21) at noon, we are going to launch a sub-segment called chemical,



biological, radiation, nuclear and explosive or CBRNE-Arena at DSA 2026. It is a purpose-built, fully integrated exhibition and networking zone dedicated exclusively to the CBRNE sector which is designed to bring together global industry leaders, government agencies, and solution providers, offering a platform to present groundbreaking technologies, share knowledge, and engage with strategic partners.

We will also be introducing a new sub-segment called the Firearms and Tactical Gears, to focus on small weapon manufacturers, ammunition manufacturers, tactical gears manufacturers to come in and put them all together in the same arena.

ADJ: Can you elaborate on how DSA and NATSEC Asia are positioning themselves as more than just trade shows – specifically as platforms for government-to-government and industry-to-government engagement?

NAR: One of our strategic priorities has always been to offer value beyond the exhibition floor. DSA and NATSEC Asia serve as important platforms for structured G2G and G2B engagements. With the support of the Ministry of Defence Malaysia and Ministry of Home Affairs Malaysia, we facilitate official delegations, bilateral meetings, and closed-door briefings that allow for direct interaction between policymakers, procurement officials, and industry players. These high-level interactions strengthen defence diplomacy, enable procurement discussions, and contribute to the overall policy dialogue at both national and regional levels.

ADJ: Looking ahead to 2026 and beyond, what is your vision for the role of DSA and NATSEC Asia in promoting Malaysia as a hub for defence, security, and strategic dialogue in Southeast Asia?

NAR: Our vision is for DSA and NATSEC Asia to be at the centre of strategic thinking and collaboration in the region and beyond. By continuously enhancing the quality of participation, dialogue, and content, we aim to position Malaysia not only as a host but as

a facilitator of regional security cooperation and industry development.

The events are designed to bring together thought leaders, innovators, and decisionmakers to shape the future of defence and national security in a rapidly changing world. We believe Malaysia's strategic location, neutral diplomacy, and growing industry capabilities make it an ideal venue for such high-level engagements.

Also tomorrow (May 21), we will have a contract handover ceremony which is

going to be participated by nine companies confirming their participation in DSA and NATSEC Asia 2026. The event will be officiated by the Minister of Defence along with Chief of Defence Forces, Secretary-General, and Chief of Army, highlighting how the exhibition has gained a lot of momentum and early participation confirmation. We have received interest from local and international companies, which have made bookings and reservations. ♦

Havelsan, DNeX Announce Strategic Partnership

DAGANG NeXchange Berhad (DNeX) has entered into a strategic partnership with Turkish Armed Forces Foundation's Havelsan, a company known for providing high-tech, software-intensive products, solutions, and services for both domestic and international markets. Together, the companies will develop and market advanced digital solutions for both Malaysia's and Türkiye's public and private sectors by leveraging on each other's key strength.

This partnership will significantly boost DNeX's digital capabilities by providing access to top-tier technologies, especially in critical areas like mission-critical systems, data analytics, cybersecurity and enterprise digital platforms. It positions DNeX as a leader in Malaysia's digital transformation initiatives, particularly in high-security sectors.

At the same time, Havelsan will be able to leverage on DNeX's Trade Facilitation Solutions (National Single Window, Warehousing and Logistics) as well as DNeX's in-house developed Artificial Intelligence solutions, which can be

marketed to Türkiye's public and private sectors. Both parties will also jointly develop and market Havelsan's Kovan Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solution including joint business process reengineering of the product to ensure adaptability within Malaysia's enterprises and organisations.

The agreement between DNeX and Havelsan was signed yesterday, attended by the Defence Industry Agency of Türkiye president Prof Dr Haluk Gorgun, and Turkish Ambassador to Malaysia Emir Salim Yuksel. DNeX's non-independent non-executive chairman Syed Zainal Abidin Syed Mohamed Tahir represented DNeX, while Havelsan's CEO Dr Mehmet Akif Nacar signed on behalf of Havelsan.

Havelsan, a leading software and systems company under the Turkish Armed Forces Foundation, offers cutting-edge global solutions in the defence and IT industries. With a wide array of services, Havelsan excels in providing advanced technology for defence, simulation and training systems, autonomous unmanned systems, information and communication technologies, as well as cybersecurity.

DNeX group CEO Faizal Sham Abu Mansor said the alliance is a crucial advancement in enhancing DNeX's role as a provider of digital solutions for Malaysia's public and private sectors whilst at the same time bringing DNeX technical know-how to Türkiye. "This partnership enables us to bring cutting-edge IT capabilities to Malaysian organisations, helping them improve operational efficiency and adopt data-driven decision-making strategies. It fits perfectly with our strategy to expand our presence in sectors where security, reliability and performance are crucial. Additionally, we can partner with a very strong and trusted entity to further develop and market our Trade Facilitation Services to Türkiye and the surrounding region," he said.

Dr Mehmet Akif said: "We are thrilled to introduce Havelsan's advanced technological expertise and global experience to Malaysia through this partnership with DNeX. This collaboration underscores our dedication to supporting digital transformation in key sectors. We are confident that our innovative solutions will significantly enhance Malaysia's digital ecosystem, strengthening economic and technological bonds between our countries."

This partnership aligns with DNeX's goal to become a top provider of state-of-the-art solutions for Malaysia's digital transformation, enhancing the country's digital ecosystem with advanced technologies.

DNeX is a global technology company operating in three business divisions: Technology, Energy, and Information Technology. In Technology, the company operates as a semiconductor foundry. In Energy, the company is involved in upstream exploration and production in the North Sea, UK and Malaysia as well as equipment supply and maintenance. In IT, the company provides eServices for trade facilitation and has experience in technology consulting and systems integration. The company is listed on the Main Market of Bursa Malaysia. ♦



Diehl Defence Sets Sights On ASEAN Air, Coastal Defences

TARGETING to safeguard Southeast Asian skies and coastlines, Diehl Defence is showcasing their state-of-the-art IRIS-T SLM medium-range ground-based air defence (GBAD) system. The IRIS-T was originally an air-to-air guided missile that was later designed to be launched from missile container launchers on the back of a truck. An IRIS-T battery is made up of three components, a launcher unit, multifunctional radar and tactical operation centre on a MAN truck chassis. The SLM has an intercept range of 40 kilometers at a maximum altitude of 20km while its radar detection range is 250km. It provides 360-degree coverage against a myriad of threats, such as fixed and rotary-wing aircraft, cruise missiles and unmanned aerial platforms.

Additionally, Diehl also highlighted its newer truck-launched heavy anti-ship missile (ASM) launcher for coastal defence which fires the RBS 15 Mk3 fire-and-forget missiles that can strike naval as well as land targets. Coastal defence systems are intended for regions with vast littoral environments, such as the Baltic Sea in Europe or Southeast Asia, where many countries, such as Indonesia and the Philippines consist primarily of islands. To complete its survivability, coastal defence systems need to include GBAD components as protection against cruise missiles and drones.

In addition to the ship-based version,

the RBS15 Mk3 can also be launched from a wide range of trucks according to specific customer requirements, so that a very effective coastal defence can be established quickly and easily. Since the missile can engage all ships and suitable land targets, user nations benefit from the very high system flexibility with regard to the launch platform as well as the target types (multi-platform and multi-target coordinated engagements). This flexibility makes the RBS15 Coastal Defence system the perfect match for parallel dominance in blue waters, at land and in rugged littoral waters.

A standard RBS15 Mk3 Coastal Defence battery consists of two to four launch vehicles which can completely operate stand

alone or can be supported by the mobile command post, the ammunition supply and "in field" repair capability – all of which are available "off-the-shelf" and currently in series production.

The modular, highly-mobile and extendable RBS15 Mk3 Coastal Defence system provides maximum operational flexibility to different applications and can be tailored to the customer's requirements. The system can be integrated into higher level command and control systems. Its low operational and logistics costs, as well as very low personnel requirements are further benefits of the RBS15 Mk3 Coastal Defence System. ♦



Türkiye's Submarine-Launched Atmaca Missile Test Success

THE Turkish Navy has successfully conducted the first test-firing of the submarine-launched variant of the domestically developed Atmaca anti-ship missile, marking a significant milestone in Türkiye's naval capabilities. The test, conducted on Mar 12, involved the launch of an encapsulated Atmaca missile from the TCG Preveze (S-353), a Preveze-class (Type 209/1400) diesel-electric submarine, in the East Mediterranean off the coast of Mersin, Türkiye.

"The test verified the missile's ability to launch from underwater, breach the surface, and engage a target, a capability previously possessed by only a handful of nations," Türkiye Today reported.

The submarine-launched adaptation of the Atmaca missile provides a significantly longer-range engagement alternative to torpedoes, while its anti-ship variant, featuring stealth-enhancing measures such as a reduced radar cross-section and low

cruising altitude and more; it complicates detection and increases the difficulty of countering an attack when launched from beneath the surface. This situation may open the door to a capability that can be used not only for ships but also for land targets in the future.

Test Milestone For Naval Defence

Following the test, top defence officials lauded the achievement. Turkish Defense Industries Secretary Haluk Gorgun announced the test's success on X (formerly Twitter), stating: "Atmaca, the steel sword of the Blue Homeland, will now hit its target from under the sea." He emphasised that the successful test demonstrated Türkiye's growing self-sufficiency in defence technology. "The Turkish defence industry is moving forward for a fully independent future on land, air and sea," he added.

Roketsan CEO Murat İkinci also commented, calling the successful launch a breakthrough for Türkiye's naval capabilities.

The Turkish Ministry of Defense (MoD) highlighted the event, noting the participation of high-ranking officials, including Gorgun, Turkish Naval Forces Commander Admiral Ercument Tatlıoğlu, and Roketsan's leadership, during the live test. "We congratulate the heroes of our Defence Industry who add strength to the power of our Naval Forces," the MoD said.

A Strategic Advantage

The Atmaca (Hawk) is a long-range anti-ship cruise missile developed by Roketsan, a Turkish defence contractor, as part of Türkiye's efforts to enhance its indigenous defence capabilities. It is designed to replace older systems like the Harpoon missile and is intended for multiplatform use, including surface ships, aircraft, and submarines.

The development programme began in 2009 to meet surface-to-surface cruise missile requirements of the Turkish Naval Forces. The prime contractor, Roketsan, began design studies in September 2012. ♦



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Airbus Highlight Defence Portfolio To Further Support Malaysia's Needs

AIRBUS Helicopters is committed to providing multi-role military helicopters and uncrewed aerial systems (UAS) that address Malaysia's defence and security requirements. Speaking to the media at LIMA'25, Airbus emphasised the company's commitment to ensuring Malaysia's armed forces have access to reliable aircraft and training capabilities.

"Malaysia's defence market is evolving, with greater demand for special operations, combat search-and-rescue, tactical transport, and specialised training capabilities. This is where Airbus' combat proven multi-role military helicopters are well-suited for such missions, offering demonstrated success in demanding operations and environments," said Airbus Helicopters sales and marketing (Asia Pacific) head Thomas Zeman.

With over 180 units delivered globally and 40 on order, the H225M remains a key asset in military operations. The widespread use of the H225M underlines the success of this force multiplier which enables operators to deploy rapidly in all-weather environments. This is in addition to the large number of H225 operators utilising the versatile helicopter for various civil and parapublic missions.

In Malaysia, the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) operates 12 H225M helicopters, which have consistently demonstrated their versatility and reliability across military exercises, humanitarian efforts and disaster relief, accumulating nearly 40,000 flight hours.

The RMAF's exceptional deployment of the H225M was recently recognised with the Wings of Valour award, underscoring the helicopter's vital role in lifesaving and humanitarian missions across Malaysia and the region.

Airbus sees strong potential to expand Malaysia's H225M fleet to further enhance operational effectiveness. "As the security challenges evolve, the H225M remains indispensable, enabling rapid response in high-stakes missions. Its combat-proven capabilities, all-weather performance, and mission adaptability make it a critical force multiplier, strengthening Malaysia's defence posture," added Zeman.

"Malaysia has witnessed the H225M's impact firsthand, with the RMAF demonstrating its operational readiness over the past 13 years. With its proven track record in defence and humanitarian missions, we see opportunities to further integrate the H225M into Malaysia's fleet. As operational demands evolve, the H225M will continue to be a key enabler, ensuring the nation's defence forces remain agile, responsive and operation-ready for the



future."

In addition to crewed helicopters, Airbus is advancing uncrewed capabilities, reinforcing its commitment to next-generation defence solutions. The Flexrotor – a vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) UAS, offers up to 14 hours of endurance for intelligence surveillance, target acquisition and recognition (ISTAR), search and rescue, law enforcement, and border patrol missions.

"Flexrotor is mission-proven, accumulating 3,700 flight hours in high-threat, GPS-denied environments, making it an ideal asset for Malaysia's evolving defence and security landscape."

Airbus also shared that the company is actively investing in crewed-uncrewed teaming (CUC-T) solutions, connecting helicopters with UAS to enhance operational effectiveness in contested environments. With a strong foundation in defence aviation and security, Airbus is well-positioned to support Malaysia's evolving operational requirements.

"As defence forces continue to adapt, Airbus remains fully committed to delivering cutting-edge technologies and mission-ready solutions for sustained effectiveness," said Zeman.

New Airbus H175 Simulator For Malaysia

Airbus further reinforces its commitment to aviation safety with the expansion of the Airbus Helicopters Training Academy in Malaysia, and the addition of a third full-flight simulator (FFS) in Subang, Malaysia. Set to be operational in the second half of 2026, the investment will support the growing training needs in the region, demonstrating the firm's commitment to customer proximity.

The new H175 simulator – the first of its kind outside Europe – joins existing H225 and AS365 simulators, offering an advanced learning experience with digitised

classrooms and virtual trainers. These expanded capabilities will support pilot type rating, recurrent training, and mission training, ensuring operational proficiency for critical flight scenarios.

"This latest investment underscores our dedication to aviation safety and customer proximity. By expanding our training capabilities in Malaysia, we are ensuring that pilots and mechanics in Asia-Pacific have access to world-class facilities designed to enhance safety and readiness," said Airbus Helicopters customer support and services executive vice-president Romain Trapp.

To-date, Airbus Helicopters' simulator centre in Malaysia has provided over 21,000 training hours to some 2,600 pilots. With the new H175 FFS, the company is poised to increase its capacity and further contribute to the region's aviation safety. The expanded training centre will offer cutting-edge simulation technology, including Level D training capabilities, the latest Helionix avionics system, and OEM data packages that ensure an accurate reproduction of helicopter performance, all aimed at elevating pilot proficiency and operational safety.

Airbus also inaugurated a new office in Putrajaya, reaffirming its commitment to Malaysia.

"Airbus has a long-standing relationship with the country across its commercial aircraft, defence, space and helicopter businesses. It is our third-largest market in the region after China and India. What makes this partnership unique is the breadth of collaboration – from commercial fleet modernisation and defence cooperation, to local industrial participation and skills development. Parts "Made in Malaysia" are flying on nearly every Airbus commercial aircraft in production today," said Airbus Asia-Pacific president Anand Stanley. ♦

Howitzer Major Structure Contract By BAE Systems For US Army

BAE Systems has been awarded a contract by the US Army for M777 lightweight howitzer major structures, worth US\$162 million.

BAE Systems has already begun work on the programme, working with its supply chain in the US and the UK to produce the titanium structures, which form the basis of the gun. The initial work started under an Unfinalized Contract Action (UCA), awarded in December 2023, which has now been finalised. The first major structures will be produced at BAE Systems' new multi-million-dollar artillery development and production facility in Sheffield, UK, as well as within the US supply chain and will commence delivery in 2026.

BAE Systems has seen interest in the howitzers from across Europe, Asia and the Americas. The restart of M777 production presents a unique opportunity for new and existing users of the lightweight howitzer to benefit from a hot production line and economies of scale.

"This contract is a major milestone in revitalising M777 production at a critical time, where the howitzers are playing a key role in operations in Europe," said vice president and general manager John Borton, of BAE Systems Weapons Systems UK business, which manages the manufacture and assembly of the M777 lightweight howitzers.

"We are honoured to support our NATO allies by providing them with the only battle-proven 155mm lightweight howitzer in the world. We will continue to ensure the M777 remains king of artillery well into the future using technical insertions, long-range precision guided munition developments, and flexible mobility options."

At half the weight of other 155mm towed

howitzers, the M777 provides a rapid reaction capability and a proven pedigree that delivers decisive firepower when needed most in sustained combat conditions. With more than 1,250 M777s in service with ground forces in the US, Europe, Canada, Australia and India, the M777 is the only battle-proven 155mm lightweight howitzer in the world. ♦



NFH Showcases Next-Level Naval Aviation

WITH growing maritime security challenges and increasing naval modernisation efforts across Asia, the NATO Frigate Helicopter (NFH) presents significant opportunities in the region. Its ability to operate from frigates and shore bases, even in high sea states, aligns well with the needs of Indo-Pacific navies seeking versatile platforms for multi-role missions. From safeguarding vast exclusive economic zones to supporting disaster relief and counter-piracy operations, the NFH offers a compelling solution for countries looking to bolster their maritime domain

awareness and operational readiness with a combat-proven, interoperable platform.

Developed by the European defense industry, the NFH stands as the most modern and advanced naval helicopter in its class. Its design prioritises safety and versatility, enabling it to execute demanding missions globally, even in the harshest weather conditions. Key features include a redundant fly-by-wire system, a corrosion-free full composite airframe, powerful twin engines, a fully integrated weapon system, and a spacious, easily reconfigurable cabin.

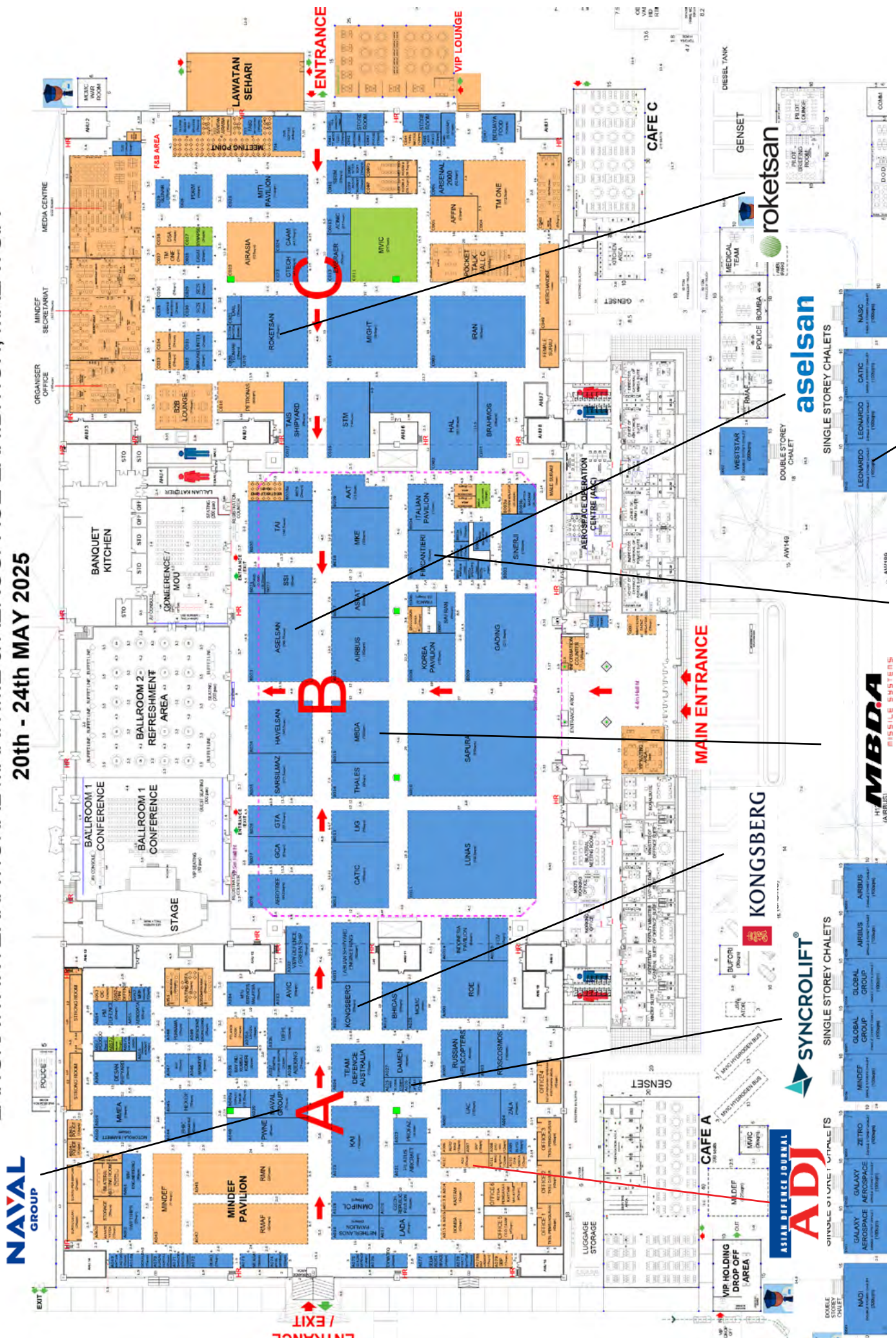
The NFH is operational from shore bases or frigate-class ships up to sea state 5.

This exceptional capability and flexibility allow leading global navies to undertake a broad spectrum of missions: Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), Anti-Surface Warfare (ASuW), Maritime Surveillance and Control, Limited Airborne Early Warning, Special Operations (including Counter-Terrorism and Anti-Piracy), Search and Rescue, Logistic Transport and Utility support, Vertical Replenishment (VERTREP), and Casualty Evacuation (CASEVAC). ♦



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