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THE OFFICIAL SHOW DAILY

# HAL Proposing Versatile Light Utility Aircraft, Tech To Malaysia

By MG Mahmud

**INDIA** is strategically positioning itself in the regional defence and security market by offering the Dornier 228 (Do-228) aircraft to Malaysian security agencies at LIMA'25 plus the added value of enhancing bilateral cooperation in the aerospace industry. The scope of cooperation include transfer of technology, joint ventures in MRO capacity and the supply of critical parts for military aircraft such as fighters and trainers, said Hindustan Aeronautic Limited (HAL) chairman and managing director Dr DK Sunil.

"First off, we are working with our local partners in a collaboration to bid for a Royal Malaysia Police tender for a number of Do-228 light utility aircraft but apart from that we are also looking establishing MRO via a joint venture that will cover the Southeast Asia region," he said.

Dr Sunil said HAL has got an aspiration to serve the ASEAN market and is looking at Malaysia to open up the market and to address this opportunity. *continued on page 8*



# Malaysia MINDEF Strategic Agreements To Enhance MAF Readiness

**MALAYSIA** gave out contracts worth up to US\$2.58 billion during LIMA'25, close to US\$234.6 million or 8.91% increase compared with US\$2.37b registered in 2023. Presiding over the contract signing and document handover ceremony, the minister of defence Mohamed Khaled Nordin said the billions of Ringgit Malaysia are to be spent to meet the nation's defence needs. "Three types of documents were signed and handed over: 85 Letter of Agreement (LoA) or contracts, two Letter of Intent (LoI), and six memoranda of understanding (MoUs).

"This expenditure is divided into five main areas, namely the procurement of strategic assets for land, maritime, and air defence; cyber security; and facilities/welfare for the Malaysian Armed Forces," he said

yesterday.

Mohamed Khaled noted that during LIMA'23, a total of 43 documents were signed by the MINDEF, valued at around US\$2.37b.

He said that such procurement aims to enhance asset readiness at the highest level to strengthen territorial sovereignty. Among the agreements under negotiation is MINDEF's procurement of 136 Armoured Type A Vehicles (KJA) and related infrastructure from Mildef Technologies Sdn Bhd, with an estimated project value of US\$441m.

Other contracts include the addition of two Long Range Radars (LRR) in Bukit Peteri, Terengganu and Bukit Luncu, Johor valued at US\$65m, the procurement of 178 units of Light Anti-Tank Weapon – Short

Range (LATW-SR) valued at US\$11.5m as well as the supply and delivery of 780 units of Light Anti-Tank Weapon (LAW) C90 valued at US\$1.96m, he said.

Apart from acquiring new assets, Mohamed Khaled pointed out that the strengthening of the Malaysian Armed Forces' capabilities is also being carried out by ensuring assets remain in good condition through the enhancement of existing assets.

Under this aspect, the contracts signed include, the maintenance and repair contract for the Prime Minister-Class Submarine worth US\$239.3m, and the procurement of obsolescence management services for KD Perdana valued at US\$11.26, among others. ♦

# ADS, PT LENTERA, KNDS Team Up To Supply, Assemble, Integrate 105MM LG1 Light Guns To Marinir

**MALAYSIAN** artillery systems firm Advanced Defence Systems (ADS) yesterday announced a landmark partnership with Indonesian defence firm PT Lentera Sumber Makmur (PT LENTERA) and KNDS France to supply, integrate and qualify 105mm LG1 Light Guns to the Indonesia Armed Forces (Marinir). The collaboration represents a significant step in regional defence cooperation and is set to enhance the local defence industry capabilities of Malaysia, to create new opportunities for technology transfer and local industrial growth.

The collaboration will see ADS taking the lead in overseeing the assembling, integration and qualification of the 105mm LG1 MK III artillery system in Malaysia. This locally-assembled and integrated system will meet stringent international standards, offering enhanced capability and reliability in support of national and regional security objectives. The partnership aligns with the broader goals of strengthening regional security, advancing defence technology, and building self-sufficiency in the local defence industry.

ADS previously supplied a regiment of 105mm LG1 MK III artillery gun system to the Malaysian Army, which was fully assembled and integrated at ADS' weapon assembly plant in Johor, Malaysia. The additional technology and know-how collaboration between ADS and KNDS will allow for the development of local expertise, with ADS aiming to develop itself to be a centre of excellence for 105mm LG1 sub-systems qualification, especially on incorporating



new Inertial Navigation System (INS) technology.

PT LENTERA has played a crucial role in advancing Indonesia's self-reliance in defence, and this partnership with ADS and KNDS France represents a significant milestone in that journey. The 105mm LG1 MK III artillery systems produced under this partnership will be supplied to PT LENTERA, a key player in Indonesia's defence sector, which will contribute to the modernisation of Indonesia's military forces, enabling them to better address both internal and regional security challenges. Having been the company responsible for introducing the 155 SPH CAESAR artillery to Indonesia Army, this role as a local industry player is enhanced with the establishment of its new artillery systems maintenance facilities in Bandung, Indonesia.

The 105mm LG1 MK III gun is a versatile

and lightweight artillery system that is well-suited for deployment in various terrains, making it a critical asset for modern armed forces. It is the lightest and most accurate 105mm Light Gun in its category with a minimum rate of fire of 12 rounds per minute. Besides Malaysia, it is currently in service with Marinir, the armed forces of Thailand, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Saudi Arabia and Senegal.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ADS and PT LENTERA and KNDS France was signed at the Malaysian Pavilion, where Lt Col Shane Chin (R), director of business development signed on behalf of ADS, Mayor Jeneral TNI (Purn) Gen Sonhadji for PT LENTERA while KNDS France was represented by Amaury de Poncins. The ceremony was witnessed by Malaysia Deputy Minister of Defence Adly Zahari. ♦

## Airbus Extend MAF Satellite Access

**AIRBUS** Defence and Space reaffirmed its longstanding support to Malaysia's defence communications infrastructure with the signing of a contract for continued access to X-band satellite services by the Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF). The agreement was signed with the Malaysian Ministry of Defence and announced at LIMA'25. This milestone celebrates a decade of collaboration between Airbus and Malaysia in secure communications, following the successful 2014 launch of the MEASAT-3b satellite by Airbus.

The satellite, owned and operated by Malaysian satellite operator MEASAT, has been a cornerstone of this enduring partnership. The renewed agreement ensures that MAF will continue to benefit

from the robust, high assurance, X-band satellite communications until at least 2029 – extending and expanding a critical capability that supports operations across land, sea, and air domains.

Airbus Defence and Space head of region for Asia-Pacific Zakir Hamid said: "Since 2014, Airbus' X-band satellite services have been critical to Malaysia's strategic communications architecture. In an increasingly complex and interconnected security environment, reliable milsatcom is essential to enable secure command and control, real-time situational awareness, and effective decision-making in contested or remote environments."

The contract also includes an Industrial Collaboration Programme (ICP) designed

to deepen cooperation between Airbus and Malaysia's growing space and defence technology ecosystem which would see the firm share its expertise with local partners, build capacity, and support the long-term development of sovereign satellite and electronic warfare capabilities. Additionally, it will strengthen the existing and successful collaboration between Airbus and MEASAT.

In 2019, Airbus was selected by MEASAT to build MEASAT-3d, a new multi-mission telecommunications satellite to replace capacity and augment MEASAT's core business in Malaysia, Asia, Middle East and Africa. The satellite was launched in June 2022. ♦





**MALAYSIAN** Minister of Defence Mohamed Khaled Nordin (8th from left) witnessed the exchange of a Participation Contract for DSA/NATSEC Asia 2026 involving several participants, during LIMA'25. Among the firms that have confirmed their participation are Ada Vinci Global Sdn Bhd (AVG), Advance Defence Systems Sdn Bhd, Cendana Auto Sdn Bhd, IDC Technologies Sdn Bhd, Mega Arms Sdn Bhd, Nizra Group, Rohde & Schwarz, Weststar Defence Industries Sdn Bhd dan VR Universal Sdn Bhd. ♦

## Thales Reinforce Commitment to Malaysia

**THALES'** commitment to Malaysian defence is once again recognised by the Malaysian Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces. With a steady economic growth outlook, the Malaysian government is keen to advance the country's military modernisation and Thales remains at the forefront of this, with Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) and Letter of Award (LoA) received for equipment ranging from radars to radios.

I. Two additional GM400α long-range radars for superior situational air awareness

To strengthen the air surveillance and air defence capabilities of the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF), Thales received a MoU for two additional long-range air surveillance GM400α radars, in a signing ceremony held on May 22. The agreement was signed between Thales Malaysia country director Francois-Xavier Boutes, and Ministry of Defence secretary-general Lokman Hakim Ali, witnessed by Minister of Defence Mohamed Khaled Nordin. The award of these two additional radars underscores the trust held by the RMAF in Thales' radar technology, following the first GM400α contract signed at the end of 2023. Thanks to its high mobility, high availability, easy upgradeability and seamless integration, the GM400α offers armed forces a valuable tool to gain tactical advantage, detecting all types of threats early and providing precious minutes for decision-making and action (515km range). Today more than 270 Ground Master field-proven family air surveillance radars have been sold

worldwide.

In Malaysia, Thales will work closely with local partner Weststar Group, to deploy the radars in line with the operational requirements of the RMAF. Thales will also engage in Transfer of Knowledge and Train-the-Trainer courses delivered under the Industrial Collaboration Programme (ICP), while strengthening its installed base in Malaysia for long-range surveillance radars. By building local expertise, Thales will enhance the efficiency of radar maintenance, enhance the autonomy of the RMAF and ensure timely on-ground maintenance support close to the end-users. Thales' radar expertise in Malaysia runs deep, as the country was also the launch customer for the precursor GM400 radar in 2009, which Thales is currently upgrading to Alpha mode.

II. Enhancing tactical and radio communications for Malaysia

To further deepen its expertise in radio and tactical communications, Thales has also signed an MoU with local partner ADS Sdn Bhd. Signed on the second day of LIMA'25 between ADS chairman Brig Gen Abdul Hadi Abdul Razak (R) and Thales Asia vice-president Nicolas Bouverot, the collaboration will see both parties working on the latest digital technologies for handheld radios and other tactical communications.

III. A helicopter training simulator marks a first contract with Royal Malaysian Police (RMP)

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Thales International CEO Pascale Sourisse witnessed the signing of an LoA, together with local Malaysian partner Novatis Resources to deliver a Reality-H AW139 Full Flight Simulator (FFS) to be used for pilot training with the RMP. The Thales Reality H Full Flight Simulator is the world's most advanced commercial helicopter simulator, and will be qualified to meet Level D standard, the highest level of qualification for a simulator. This marks a first engagement with the RMP, where pilots of the Police Air Wing Training Academy and other government agencies including the fire brigade and coast guard can benefit from realistic and immersive training, customised to the Malaysian environment and terrain. The simulator is anticipated to be delivered in mid-2027.

"These latest contracts are recognition of how Thales's solutions are supporting the needs of the Malaysian Ministry of Defence and its various forces. Our air surveillance radars are bringing air superiority to the Royal Malaysian Air Force in some of the most challenging tropical environments. In addition, our history in tactical radio communications dates back several decades in Malaysia and looks set to continue as we collaborate with strong local partners to develop home-grown expertise and joint solutions to support the Army. Malaysia is on an upward trajectory to strengthen its defence capabilities, and we appreciate the renewed trust in Thales to help drive the modernisation of its armed forces in this era of stability and growth," said Sourisse. ♦



# MILDEF, ASELSAN To Advance Defence Technology Integration



MILDEF launched its latest fully-indigenous High Mobility Light Tactical Vehicle (HMLTV) which was then officially named "RIBAT" by Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim.

**MALAYSIAN** defence vehicle manufacturer MILDEF International Technologies Sdn Bhd (MILDEF), and Turkish defence technology giant ASELSAN yesterday entered into a strategic Teaming Agreement at the MILDEF Pavilion during LIMA'25. The signing ceremony was witnessed by the minister of defence Mohamed Khaled Nordin, alongside the secretary-general of the Ministry of Defence Malaysia, Lokman Hakim Ali. Signing on behalf of ASELSAN were its CEO Ahmet Akyol and vice-president Zekeriyya Sahin. MILDEF was represented by its managing director Mohd Nizam Kasa and general manager Salimuhar Ali.

This partnership marks a key milestone in strengthening bilateral defence cooperation, specifically in the integration of high-end military technologies into the Tarantula 4x4 High Mobility Armoured Vehicle, a platform designed, developed and manufactured locally by MILDEF for the Malaysian

Army. The collaboration also incorporates cost-saving measures and the transfer of technology, contributing added value to the advancement of the national defence sector.

Under the agreement, MILDEF will assume the role of prime contractor and vehicle platform provider, while ASELSAN will serve as the key systems integrator,

delivering advanced subsystems including Remote Controlled Weapon Stations (RCWS), communication equipment, electro-optical sensors, and command-and-control solutions.

"The agreement reflects a shared commitment to collaborate exclusively in delivering comprehensive and integrated solutions for the Malaysian defence sector. It also outlines general principles related to roles, confidentiality, legal compliance, and the protection of proprietary technologies," MILDEF stated.

"As an active and fast-growing player in the Malaysian defence ecosystem, MILDEF continues to champion homegrown innovation and engineering excellence. The company's expanding portfolio of armoured and tactical vehicles underscores its ambition to support Malaysia's defence self-reliance agenda and elevate the nation's standing in the regional defence industry. This collaboration exemplifies the synergy between local industrial capabilities and globally-recognised technological expertise, aligned with Malaysia's aspiration to build a resilient and future-ready defence industry." ♦



## G7 Aerospace Strengthen Ties With Turkish Aerospace, Defence Companies

**SUBSEQUENT** to successful ICP subcontract with Turkish Aerospace, G7 Aerospace continues to strengthen its relationship with other Turkish Aerospace and Defence companies as an effort to expand its business offerings. At LIMA'25, G7 Aerospace renewed its ties with ASELSAN following the signing of Teaming Agreement to co-develop a local solution to resolve PC-7 Mk II avionics obsolescence.

Another Teaming Agreement was inked to formalise G7 relationship with HAVELSAN as part of G7's design/maintenance support network under the RMAF Obsolescence

Direct Purchase Agreement (DPA) which will soon be finalised with the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF). Lastly, under its unmanned systems business portfolio, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with STM to formalise the companies' collaboration on the defence drones segment.

G7 Aerospace CEO Rosdi Mahmud stated that partnering with Turkish aerospace and defence companies not only benefit the company in terms of technology and business. "G7 is actually providing the platform for Turkish aerospace and defence products and services to be made

available in Malaysia as well as regional markets. Our successful collaboration with Turkish Aerospace which resulted in on-time delivery of Anka UAS to the RMAF has facilitated further collaborations with other key Turkish companies."

G7 Aerospace's ties with Turkish companies are B-to-B initiatives which complement the "G-to-G Procurement for Defence Products MOU" inked last year by Malaysia's Minister of Defence, and Türkiye's Secretary of Defence Industries. ♦

# ASELSAN's Critical Partnerships With Malaysian Companies

**ASELSAN** made a strong impression at LIMA'25, with the signing of strategic agreements covering joint production, joint system development, and the delivery of integrated defense solutions with Malaysian companies, reinforcing its role as a trusted defense partner in the region.

The Turkish defense company left its mark at LIMA'25 by signing two teaming agreements and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at strengthening cooperation with the Malaysian defense industry. The signing ceremonies, held during the exhibition, were attended by officials from Malaysian and Turkish defense industries, highlighting the importance of these strategic partnerships.

The first of the agreements is a collaboration with Sapura Secured Technologies, which includes joint product development, joint production and the development of national cryptology capabilities in military communication solutions. With the agreement signed with MILDEF International Technologies, the company is collaborating to equip the Malaysian Army with advanced remote-controlled weapon systems, communication and electro-optical systems and command and control solutions. These systems will be integrated into the Land Forces' Tarantula Armored Vehicles. ASELSAN is also collaborating with Ventura IOT to design and develop advanced pipeline security solutions in line with the needs and requirements of the Malaysian Army.

At LIMA'25, ASELSAN is showcasing a comprehensive portfolio of advanced



defense technologies, including remote-controlled weapon systems, close-in defense solutions, unmanned surface vehicles, sonar systems, and torpedo countermeasures. For UAV platforms, the company is presenting its cutting-edge electro-optical sensors, electronic warfare systems, precision-guided munitions, and guidance kits. ASELSAN is also highlighting its state-of-the-art radar systems, air defense solutions, and an extensive range of

communication and avionics technologies.

"Our participation in LIMA 2025 reflects our commitment to strengthening the defense ecosystem in Malaysia through strategic partnerships and innovative solutions," said ASELSAN president and CEO Ahmet Akyol. "We are excited to collaborate with local companies to develop technological capabilities and contribute to the security of the region." ♦

# Fincantieri-Graal Tech MoU For Autonomous Underwater Solutions Development, Commercialisation

**FINCANTIERI**, through IDS – Ingegneria dei Sistemi SpA (IDS), an engineering company specialising in the development of high-tech products and services – on Monday announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Graal Tech Srl (Graal Tech), a company specialising in the design and construction of underwater mechatronic systems.

Out of the agreement, signed by IDS CEO Matteo Marchiori, and Graal Tech CEO Andrea Caffaz, the two companies are starting a commercial collaboration on strategic objectives of common interest in the civil, military and dual-use fields. The MoU marks the beginning of exclusive technological co-development activities of medium and small-sized unmanned underwater vehicles, as well as their control

systems, dynamic models, simulation platforms, payloads, and dedicated monitoring, measurement, and intervention equipment.

Fincantieri stated that the MoU also provides the creation of a testing and pilot training centre for unmanned underwater vehicles. The centre will be a reference point for the Italian territory, providing services for the testing and technological qualification of systems, as well as high value-added specialised training activities.

"This operation strengthens Fincantieri's capabilities in the development of the underwater business, expanding the offer of technologically advanced products and consolidating its leadership in innovation for the maritime and underwater sector, also confirming the willingness to

invest in technologies that can ensure competitiveness and security in a business that is gaining increasing relevance at a global geopolitical level."

Finally, the MoU signed with Graal Tech expands the network of Italian SMEs with which Fincantieri collaborates, strengthening its role as a system integrator and at the same time as a developer of enabling proprietary technologies. Thanks to this agreement, Fincantieri confirms its ability to enhance the industrial tissue in which it operates and to contribute to the maintenance and development of the national industrial system, involving highly specialised local entities in various macro-sectors within large-scale and high-value projects. ♦





## CAAM Acceptance Approvals For Omnipol-MyCAS Partnership

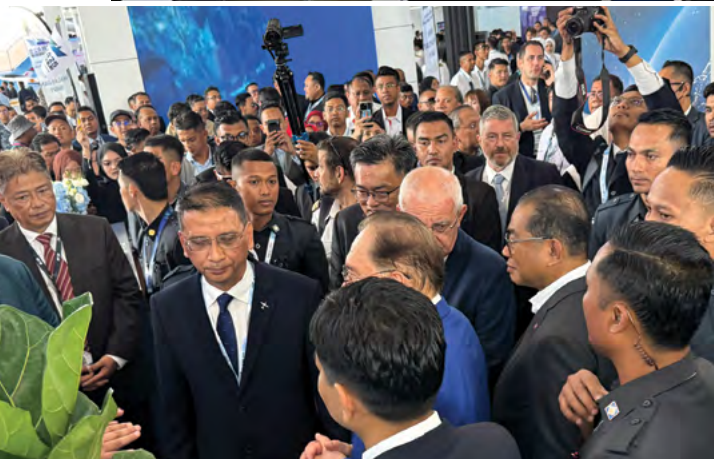
**AIRCRAFT** Industries a.s. of the Czech Republic has received the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM) Type Acceptance Approvals for its L 410 NG and L 410 UVP-E20 aircraft (including their engines and propellers), hence making them eligible to be operated under Malaysian registration. Therefore, they are now commercially to potential Malaysian operators.

The news was announced at LIMA'25 by Omnipol Group's Malaysian partner, Mycopter Aviation Services Sdn Bhd (MYCAS), which offers, among others, Aircraft Maintenance Services (AMO), Continuing Airworthiness Management Organisation (CAMO), Design Organisation Approval (DOA) and Aircraft Weighing Service.

At LIMA'25, the Omnipol Group booth and MYCAS team were visited by a number of VVIPs, which included the Regent of Perlis, HRH Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Putra Jamalullail, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Minister of Defence Mohamed Khaled Nordin, Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil and Deputy Works Minister Ahmad Maslan. ♦









# Russian Helicopters Presents Mi-171A3, Ansat, Ka-32A11M

Russian Helicopters, part of State Corporation "Rostec", is exhibiting at LIMA 2025 for the first time since 2019. Russian Helicopters is showcasing the Mi-171A3 offshore helicopter, Ka-32A11M firefighting helicopter, and the Ansat lightweight multipurpose helicopter.

**THE** Mi-171A3 multi-purpose helicopter is the perfect solution for the region with Malaysia in particular being a major exporter of natural resources, meets the requirement of all major of oil and gas companies. It is designed to transport people and cargo to offshore drilling platforms and to carry out offshore search and rescue operations.

The Mi-171A3 helicopter has a maximum take-off weight of 13 tonnes. It is capable of carrying up to 4 tonnes and, with additional fuel tanks, has a flight range of 1,000 km. With a maximum seating capacity of 24 passengers, which is the highest capacity among mass-produced offshore helicopters. On top of this, it meets up-to-date safety requirements. It is equipped with new onboard piloting equipment for use over the sea and featureless terrain. The fuselage and fuel system have an accident-resistant design and can withstand overloads of up to 20 G. Additionally, the fuel tanks are located inside the fuselage, beneath the floor with all cabin windows having a push-out design and can be used for emergency evacuation. The Mi-171A3 helicopter is also fitted with an automatic emergency landing system and externally deployable life rafts.

The Ansat lightweight multipurpose helicopter is available in various

configurations, including passenger transport, ambulance, and search and rescue versions, all of which are in high demand in the Asia-Pacific region.

The aircraft's key advantages include its spacious convertible cabin and its low life-cycle operating costs. The Ansat helicopter is low-maintenance and does not require a hangar for storage. It can also be prepared for take-off quickly and land on small, unequipped sites, such as motorways or small clearings in dense urban areas. Thanks to its design, the helicopter can be quickly transformed into a cargo or passenger version. The Ansat helicopter is

also certified for high temperature operation, making it suitable for tropical climates.

The challenging mountainous flying conditions and threat of forest fires in Malaysia mean that specialised helicopters are needed in the air fleet. Operators from various countries agree that the Ka-32 is one of the best firefighting helicopters. About 190 helicopters of this model are in operation in more than 20 countries.

At the show, Russian Helicopters is also exhibiting the upgraded Ka-32A11M featuring a new Russian-made SP-32 fire extinguishing system. In terms of efficiency, the helicopter can lift and deliver up to 4,000 litres of water and 400 litres of firefighting foam in one flight. The upgraded aircraft features digital controls and enhanced water intake and discharge ergonomics.

In addition, the Fire and Rescue Department of Malaysia (BOMBA) will be displaying the Mi-8/Mi-17 helicopter at the static display. The BOMBA has many years of experience operating Russian Mi-8/Mi-17 helicopters, during which time these aircraft have proven highly efficient and reliable. ♦



*continued from page 1.. HALHI-229*

The Indian aerospace giant is also looking at supplying the Do-228 to other enforcement agencies such as the Malaysia Coast Guard, also known as the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA). He added that the proposals include provisions for technology transfer. This initiative is part of India's broader goal to expand its defence exports and enhance its partnerships with other nations, particularly in Southeast Asia.

The Do-228, also known as the Hindustan 228 (Hi-228), is a versatile tough-proven twin-turboprop utility aircraft designed primarily for utility, cargo maritime surveillance and short-haul operations.

By supplying the Do-228, India aims to strengthen its defence cooperation with Malaysia, a country that has been exploring options for enhancing its maritime capabilities amidst regional security challenges. The inclusion of technology transfer in the deal is particularly noteworthy. This aspect not only makes the offer more attractive to Malaysia

but also aligns with India's "Make in India" initiative, promoting domestic manufacturing and innovation within the defence sector.

"Sanction free" collaborative security arrangements in Southeast Asia is key countering influences from other global powers in the region.

"We have an aircraft called Hi-228 which we have been certified for civilian operations. This is a very capable cost-effective aircraft which our Coast Guard and Air Force is using. We have over 150 aircraft in the Indian military essentially doing reconnaissance, transport," Dr Sunil said.

Originally developed by the German company Dornier GmbH, the Do-228's production was shifted to HAL (in India), which has modernised and tailored the platform to meet contemporary and future requirements.

"The key point is that we manufacture this aircraft. We have the total supply chain. We are now manufacturing it for the last 40 years and we expect we will do it for the next

20 years or so," he added.

Looking forward, he said, "there are a couple of models we have discussed that this aircraft can be expanded for this region. We would like to use Malaysia as the hub for our growth in this region. That's the strategic objective."

There is also potential in the commercial sector, because "we are looking at the case of East Malaysia where the aircraft's capability of short take-off and landing the mountainous and hilly areas in Sabah and Sarawak. I think from a perspective of where they're operating in India such as in the Himalayan mountains and the Indian Ocean, it's a very robust aircraft."

Recently, HAL delivered two of the aircraft to the Guyana Defence Forces. It is also in service in Seychelles, Bangladesh, Maldives and Mauritius. Besides Malaysia, some of the other countries that have taken interest in the region are Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand. ♦



# BHIC Expanding Aerospace Footprint With Strategic Deals

**BOUSTEAD** Heavy Industries Corporation Berhad (BHIC) has signed strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Airbus Helicopters and two Framework Agreements (FA) with PT Dirgantara Indonesia (PTDI) and IPTN North America (INA, Inc), marking a significant step in advancing Malaysia's defence capabilities and industrial self-reliance. These strategic partnerships, formalised at LIMA'25 with the presence of Malaysian Minister of Defence Khaled Nordin, underscore BHIC's commitment to strengthening national security, developing high-value aerospace capabilities and enhancing regional cooperation.

In the MoU, BHIC will collaborate with

Airbus to promote Airbus Helicopters' solutions for the requirement of the Government of Malaysia namely the Malaysian Armed Forces and government agencies. The collaboration also includes expanding training programmes at the Airbus Helicopter Simulation Center (AHSC) in Malaysia, positioning the country as a regional hub for helicopter systems training and development.

The FAs with PTDI and INA, Inc focus on regional supply chain collaboration. This includes collaboration on aerostructure tools, parts and components, aircraft production capacity building, localisation of supply chains and advanced Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) and aircraft leasing

services. INA, Inc will support these efforts through aerostructure parts and components supply and joint marketing initiatives.

BHIC CEO Feroz Razi Ramli said: "These partnerships with Airbus Helicopters, PTDI and INA, Inc mark a new chapter for BHIC, reinforcing our role as a key industrial enabler for Malaysia's defence and aerospace ecosystem. They reflect our commitment to national capability development, technology transfer and long-term regional cooperation. Together, we aim to create sustainable value, strengthen our service offerings and support the Government's agenda for self-reliant defence infrastructure."

## Aviation Design Centre-CENTEXS To Introduce Aerospace Academy Sarawak

**THE** National Aerospace & Defence Industries (NADI), via its associate company Aviation Design Centre Sdn Bhd, will collaborate with the Sarawak Foundation's wholly-owned subsidiary, Centre for Technology Excellence Sarawak (CENTEXS), to establish Aerospace Academy Sarawak Sdn Bhd – to advance Sarawak's aerospace industry.

This new academy is envisioned to become a premier institution for aerospace manufacturing and MRO training in East Malaysia and later, nationwide. The milestone was marked by an official handover ceremony of the Certificate of Incorporation, signifying the formal partnership invitation for the establishment of Aerospace Academy Sarawak.

The certificate was presented at LIMA'25 by Aviation Design Centre to CENTEXS,

symbolising the beginning of a strong partnership aimed at cultivating a skilled local workforce to serve the expanding aerospace sector. Presently, both partners are already training nearly 100 youths since November 2024 at Lundu and Subang campuses in Sarawak.

Aerospace Academy Sarawak will offer industry-aligned programs tailored to global standards, empowering Sarawakians and Malaysian youths with cutting-edge technical capabilities in aerospace manufacturing and MRO. The collaboration merges Aviation Design Centre's robust industry expertise with CENTEXS's excellence in technology training, testbeds and commercialisation.

"This partnership will be a strategic milestone not just for our organisations but for the entire state of Sarawak, and Malaysia," said Aviation Design Centre managing

director Ezry Bakar Ahmad. "Together, we aspire to establish Sarawak and Malaysia as a regional hub for aerospace talent and innovation."

CENTEXS CEO Syed Mohd Hussein Wan Abdul Rahman remarked that the Aerospace Academy will open doors for local youth to enter high-value, high-tech industries, supporting both Sarawak, as well as Malaysia's long-term vision for a diversified economy. The formation of the academy supports Sarawak's broader industrial transformation agenda and is expected to play a pivotal role in creating high-skilled job opportunities and advancing the local aerospace ecosystem. If this is successful, the business model can be established nationwide. ♦

## ATP-Ghost Robotics MoU To Boost Robotic Capabilities In Malaysia

**MALAYSIAN** aerospace company specialising in aircraft engine MRO, Airod Techno Power Sdn Bhd (ATP) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ghost Robotics Corporation, a US-based pioneer in the development of Quadrupedal Unmanned Ground Vehicles (Q-UGVs). The partnership represents a significant milestone toward advancing robotic technology and innovation across Malaysia's defence and security sectors.

The signing ceremony was attended by key representatives from both organisations, and outlined a collaborative effort to explore the integration of Ghost Robotics' advanced Q-UGV platforms into critical operations within defence, homeland security and enterprise domains.

This partnership aims to combine high-performance robotic systems with advanced sensors, communication technologies, autonomy software and AI to enhance operational capabilities and real-time situational awareness.

Key focus areas of the collaboration include:

- Supporting the tactical capabilities of elite task forces such as Special Tactical Operations and Rescue (STORM) under the Fire and Rescue Department of Malaysia (BOMBA)
- Elevating homeland security operations in collaboration with the Royal Malaysian Police (PDRM)
- Exploring autonomous robotics applications in surveillance, border security,

search and rescue, and hazardous environment response.

The Q-UGVs are equipped with state-of-the-art technologies, including LiDAR sensors, thermal imaging, and low-light optics, enabling 24/7 operations in challenging conditions. These robotic platforms are designed for a range of missions – from autonomous perimeter patrols and reconnaissance to industrial inspections and disaster response.

The MoU supports the country's broader goals to modernise defence infrastructure and adopt next-generation technologies that improve safety, readiness, and strategic advantage in the field. ♦



# Bangladesh Army Receive MLRS From ROKETSAN

**THE** Bangladesh Army has recently received over 18 units of the TRG-230 and TRG-300 multiple rocket launcher systems from Türkiye, marking a significant boost to its artillery capabilities. Manufactured by Turkish defence contractor ROKETSAN, these systems are designed to enhance firepower and flexibility on the battlefield, local media reports said.

The TRG-230 and TRG-300 systems are mounted on a Kamaz 65224 chassis, a 6x6 all-terrain vehicle. This provides the launchers with high mobility across different terrains.

With an effective range of 30-70 kilometers, the system can target distances up to 120km, making it effective for both short and long-range operations. Both systems feature advanced guidance and targeting technologies, ensuring high accuracy in missile delivery for strikes on enemy artillery, command centres, and strategic installations.

The report said that the acquisition represents a step in the Bangladesh



Army's ongoing efforts to modernise and enhance its defense capabilities. The deal emphasises the strengthening defence

relations between Bangladesh and Türkiye, particularly in the area of artillery and missile systems. ♦

## Next-Gen MRSS From STM

**TURKIYE's** leading naval company STM has unveiled its Multi-Role Support Ship (MRSS) design for the first time, at LIMA'25. Designed to support amphibious operations by transporting armored units, the vessel will also serve as a logistical support and evacuation/hospital ship during crises. STM, known for its strong engineering capabilities in naval platforms, has introduced an innovative design to meet modern naval operational needs.

Speaking at the event, STM general manager Ozgur Guleryuz emphasised that STM is Türkiye's largest naval solution partner and has been building modern naval platforms for the navies of Portugal, Ukraine, Pakistan and Malaysia. He also highlighted that STM has started the construction of three corvettes for the Royal Malaysian Navy under the LMS Batch-2 project in Türkiye last year.

"Our engineering capabilities enable us to create innovative platforms that pave the way for new collaborations. The MRSS, uniquely designed by STM engineers, is specifically designed to meet the operational requirements of the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN). It is an innovative platform that provides versatile solutions for modern naval operations."

With high operational flexibility, the MRSS can efficiently carry out both amphibious operations and logistical support missions. It is equipped to transport 14 main battle



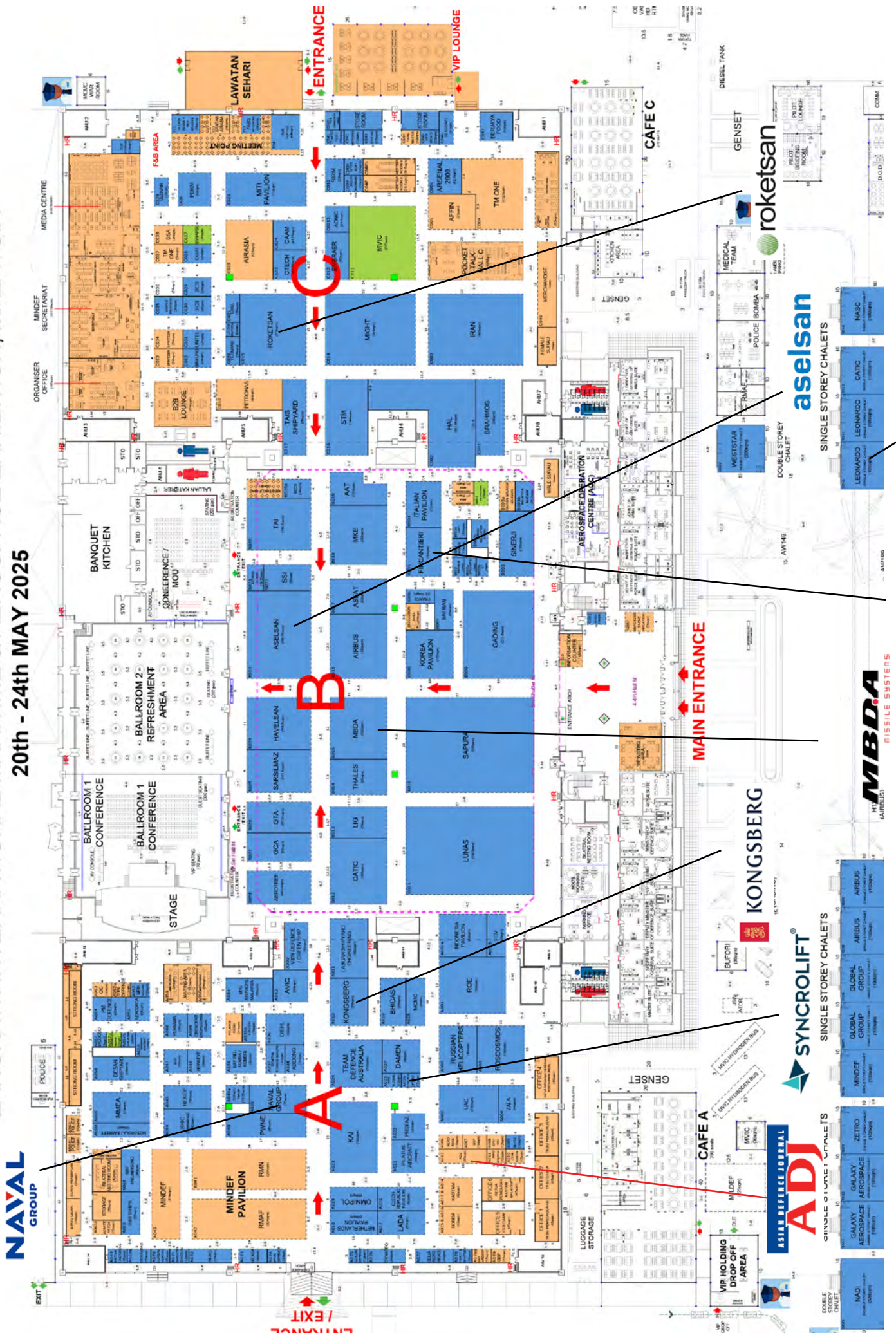
tanks, nine armored amphibious vehicles, 500 amphibious personnel, and two 15-ton helicopters, making it highly effective in amphibious landing operations.

Moreover, the MRSS is not only designed for military purposes but also plays a critical role in humanitarian aid missions.

From evacuation and medical support as a hospital ship to helicopter operations and search and rescue missions, it enhances naval operational capabilities. We have developed a cost-effective and efficient design for long-term missions at sea," said Guleryuz. ♦



**LIMA 2025 LANGKAWI**  
**LANGKAWI INTERNATIONAL MARITIME & AEROSPACE EXHIBITION, MALAYSIA**  
**20th - 24th MAY 2025**







# GUIDE

## THE SPECTRUM

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