

Weststar signs RM150m contract

PRIVATE aviation charter services Weststar General Aviation signed a contract for the order of three AgustaWestland helicopters and one Sikorsky S-76D VIP helicopter for a total of RM150 million.

The contract is for the purchase of AgustaWestland's AW119Kx, AW109 GrandNew and AW169 worth RM90 million while the Sikorsky S-76D helicopter is worth RM60 million.

"We are seeing a new demand trend taking shape at the top of the business aviation supply chain. The helicopter charter services market is growing, both in applications and the demand for certain types of helicopters.

"While Weststar General Aviation is continuing on a strong growth path, we want to double our current footprint in the helicopter charter services market. This is an enlightened initiative to boost our market share. Our diverse and expansive fleet composition in itself is an innovation to our services," said Weststar Group of Companies

group MD Tan Sri Syed Azman Syed Ibrahim.

The purchase contract was signed by Syed Azman and AgustaWestland senior VP for commercial business unit Emilio Dalmaso and witnessed by Defence Minister of Malaysia Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein at the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (LIMA) Exhibition 2015.

With the addition of the three helicopters, Weststar General Aviation will now start operating AgustaWestland helicopters for executive/corporate transport services.

The state-of-the-art AW189 helicopter can carry up to 19 passengers and is the first out of four that Weststar Aviation Services had ordered at the previous LIMA 2013.

Possessing an expansive fleet of AgustaWestland helicopters, Weststar Aviation Services has been operating AW139 helicopters in operations to support the oil and gas industry since 2011 in Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco and Thailand.