Malaysian Hawk Upgrade
Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) Hawk aircraft are soon to receive upgrades across single and twin-seat aircraft. BAE Systems will offer affordable solutions for the upgrade of seven single seat and 12 twin-seat Hawks.

Thales UAS for Malaysia
Thales will soon deliver Fulmar Unmanned Air Service capability to the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA).
Fulmar, a small, high performance, fixed wing UAS, is to be installed on six New Generation Patrol Crafts (NGPC), being constructed by Destini Shipbuilding and Engineering Sdn. Bhd.

Aiming High
Malaysia’s Defence Minister YB Dato’ Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein taking aim through the sight of a Sako TRG M10 bolt-action sniper rifle from Beretta Defence Systems.

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Precision fire support is critical in modern operations; this feature describes 155mm precision artillery projects. Precision artillery rounds not only reduce collateral damage but also deliver accurate first-round hits under all weather conditions. The article examines a number of precision artillery rounds available in the market today. Raytheon and BAE Systems Bofors Excalibur, Finmeccanica OTO Melara Vulcano 155, Orbital ATK Precision Guidance Kit, BAE Systems Rokar Silver Bullet, Nexter Munitions SPACIDO, KBP’s Krasnopol-M, and NORINCO’s GP1 and GP6.

120mm Heavy Mortar
The 120mm heavy mortar is increasingly a popular weapon system in battle zones around the world. Self-propelled mortars include the Elbit Systems Soltam CARDOM and Spear, Huta Stalowa Wola (HSW) Rak, Hyundai XKM120, Patria NEMO, Patria Hagglunds AMOS, RUAG Cobra, ST Kinetics SRAMS, and TDA Armements 2R2M. The article will also describe Raytheon’s Precision Extended Range Munition and Orbital ATK’s SM395 Precision Guided Mortar Munition. Israel Military Industries (IMI) is also aggressively marketing its new 120 mm Guided Mortar Munition (GMM) in the region, which has already been demonstrated to the Royal Thai Army.

Sure Shot
Small and Medium arms requirements for armed forces in Asia are a market that continues to attract arms manufacturers the world over. Militaries in Asia now not only need to equip themselves for conventional battles but also for the growing threat of terrorism. The two requirements call for different weapon types and capabilities. We look at the different small and medium arms systems in use with Asian militaries and the difficulties they face as they seek to reequip infantry units with modern small and medium arms.

Eurosatory 2016 Show Preview
Asian Defence Technology brings out a special show preview that provides you all the information on the latest defence technologies that will be displayed at the 2016 edition of the premier land systems exhibition. 1,507 exhibitors took part in the 2014 edition of Eurosatory and for 2016, the exhibition will bring together the entire Land & Air-land Defence and Security supply chain providing a unique opportunity to participants and visitors alike. Our special EuroSatory issue will also be distributed at the show site.

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Storm Warning with Typhoon

The Eurofighter Typhoon is being offered by BAE Systems for a Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) requirement seeking a replacement for its MiG-29 fighter fleet. The Typhoon has benefited from sustained funding and customer support for capability upgrades that make it arguably the most potent swing-role fighter platform in the world today and in the future. “In Typhoon we have an aircraft that genuinely meets any MRCA requirement. The capabilities that are being delivered on the aircraft are current, cutting edge technology, rather than previous generation technology we see with others,” Steve Osborne, the APAC Sales Director for BAE’s Military Aircraft business, tells Daily News. “We’re confident we will be providing the RMAF with the best capability MRCA and also the most reliable, deployable and easiest to maintain MRCA,” he says. The Typhoon will be completely supported by local Malaysian industry and the RMAF. Importantly, BAE brings to the table, a wealth of experience and learning on high-end performance based contracting that it has accumulated in the UK and Saudi Arabia. Eight customers have ordered the type so far with approximately 400 Typhoons of the nearly 600 aircraft having already been delivered. These are production numbers and an order book that no other modern combat aircraft type can hope to match. The Typhoon is now rapidly becoming the fighter of choice across the GCC countries with Kuwait becoming the third customer for the combat type in the region after the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman.

China Highlights WJ-600 UAV

China National Precision Machinery Import and Export Corporation (CPMIEC) is trying to hard sell its most sophisticated WJ-600 UAV system to the Southeast Asian market.

“The WJ-600 UAV system is an important weapon for information, capable of loading synthetic aperture radar, various reconnaissance equipment and other mission payload,” an official at the CPMIEC booth tells Daily News. Featuring in fast response and strong defence penetration, it is suitable for different missions such as all time all weather reconnaissance and damage effect evaluation. Armed with mini land attack missile, it can attack mobile command vehicle, radar stations, armoured vehicle and troop assembly. It can also be equipped with other mission payload for electronic warfare, information relay and drone simulations.

The jet-powered WJ-600 UAV system consists of UAVs, recovery system, telemetry/control/info relay system, mission payloads and ground support system.
Turkey’s Roketsan is looking at broadening existing cooperations and having new partners in Asia. “As of today we already have cooperations for partnership with some Asian partners. Our aim is to broaden the existing cooperations and to have new partners in Asia for not only the Asian Market but also throughout the world,” says a senior official of Roketsan.

Ranging from anti-tank weapons to laser-guided bomb kits to larger cruise and surface-to-air missiles, Roketsan has been expanding its reach, and the company sees DSA as a bridge that connects it to the Asian market. Roketsan has been partaking at the DSA regularly since the year 2000.

Roketsan is well on its way to be in the list of the first 50 defence organisations in the world, listed among Turkey’s top 500 Industrial Enterprises and being one of the top 1000 exporters of the country. “Our aim is to be within the first 100 exporters of the country. Turkey has been aware of that, the only way to achieve a US$500 billion export target in the 100th anniversary of the foundation of Republic of Turkey, is growing market share of Turkish companies across all the different world markets in which they operate,” he says.

As Turkey embarks on its 2023 Vision to become one of the 10 largest economies in the world, the role of its indigenous defence sector will continue to prove pivotal.

“With our young and growing staff and the dynamism, still of an entrepreneur, we are ready to share our competencies and infrastructure capabilities with our partners in the world,” he says.

In recent years, Roketsan has been especially successful in its overseas markets. “Roketsan is keen on marketing products to the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region, Far East, Eastern Europe and South America as being the leading company in missile and rocket development and production. Although all regions are in our scope, the Asian Market is of particular importance to us,” he adds.

The military expenditures of Asia is about 30 per cent of the world in 2014 with US$524 billion. The importance of Asia becomes apparent when compared with the other pies of the market.

“That is the reason why we are willing to participate in almost all defence shows and exhibitions in Asia. Today, we take part in 10 defence shows in Asia routinely,” the official says.

Vitebsk-based Design Office “Display” OJSC presents its new automatic remote controlled weapon station ADUNOK-W at the ongoing DSA exhibition.

ADUNOK-W has extended combat abilities of both a grenade launcher and a machine gun.

Sergey Dubchak, Head of Foreign Trade Activity Department at Display Design Office tells Daily News that ADUNOK can be mounted on fixed objects as well as on mobile vehicles.

“One control unit can simultaneously conduct the work of four combat modules connected together by various schemes,” Dubchak adds.

The system is also equipped with a video camera with a range of 2000 meters and laser range finder with range of 2500 meters.

Design Office “Display” OJSC is part of a large common stand of the Republic of Belarus, organised by company SFTUE “Belspetsvneshtechnika.”
Weststar Defence Showcases Specialised Vehicles

Weststar Defence Industries is showcasing purpose built tactical military vehicles at the ongoing DSA trade exhibition. The defence and security arm of the Weststar Group has six of its military and security vehicles on display with four light multi-role tactical vehicles, one armoured personnel carrier and one field ambulance.

"Unmatched in reliability, ease of maintenance and low through life costs, Weststar Defence’s cross-functional military and security vehicles provide an innovative breakthrough in satisfying diverse operational requirements for various services," says Weststar Group Managing Director, Tan Sri Dr. Syed Azman Syed Ibrahim.

Commercial Off-the Shelf (COTS) main assembly of these vehicles ensures that major components such as gearbox and engine have been proven over many millions of road miles in demanding environmental conditions.

The light multi-role tactical vehicles GK-M1 Special Operations Vehicle (SOV) and GK-M1 Fitted For Radio (FFR) 4x4 are capable of operating across a wide range of demanding terrains.

“Our aspiration is to become a regional leader in defence contracting. Currently, many government services’ fleets are in need of replacing. Therefore we would like to assist local and regional armed forces as well as security authorities replace their fleet with superior vehicles that increase operational efficiency to meet the demands of evolving operational environment,” he says.

“To attain these goals, our COTS specialised military and security vehicles are engineered to be cost effective. Currently, our specialised vehicles are deployed across many segments of the armed forces and the authority’s operating units,” Tan Sri Dr. Syed Azman adds.

Weststar Defence’s military and security vehicles play an important role in enhancing defence sovereignty and security of Malaysia. Recently, Weststar Defence was appointed as the main contractor for MINDEF’s STARStreak Very Short-Range Air Defence (VSHORAD) system procurement programme.
Malaysia’s Antique Arms: Moderate but Continuous

Thanks to its relatively small size of armed forces and relatively good economy in the region, Kuala Lumpur faces a moderate challenge of military modernisation in contrast to regional counterparts, but some legacies from counter insurgency (COIN) and the Cold War are still in service nowadays.

For COIN needs, British Ferret, French AML-60/90, and Belgium SIMBAS wheeled armoured vehicles were acquired respectively in the mid-1960s, 1970s and 1980s. A great portion of local modernised Ferrets and broad services of AML series in other countries may signify their operability, but the massively declined service number of SIMBAS may imply the maintenance difficulty. Both Ferret and AML have been succeeded with newer models, but Ferret would be more outdated due to its earlier design, weak firepower and smaller space. Currently, the PT-91 MBTs with 125mm main gun can take over the role of the 90mm guns of AML-90 and SIBMAS for fire support and anti-tank missions, and locally assembled AV8 infantry fighting vehicles with newer designs, including better protection, space and mobility, would eventually replace them. Regarding armoured personnel carriers (APCs), Kuala Lumpur only acquired wheel ones in its initial two decades, and thus the aging APC types which can replace old models and achieve technological succession. The Royal Malaysian Navy retains some vessels in a “grey zone” of defining antique. Four Perdana class (French Combattante II), four Handalan class (Swedish Spica-M) missile boats and six Jerong class patrol boats were delivered respectively in the early and mid-1970s. Their internationalised components, such as engines and arms are available nowadays, so that they would still be able to continuously carry out the hit-and-run and patrol missions. Undeniably, later models of missile boats, such as Swedish Visby class, have better radar and even stealthy appearance, their basic outline and capability have not been structurally changed, and engaging targets with anti-ship missiles in a limited distance in littoral waters is still their main mission. Therefore, those Malaysian missile boats are not significantly obsolete. The two Katuri class frigates purchased from Germany in 1984 are supposed not to be obsolete, but their poor air / missile defence capability without SAMs may make it vulnerable to function as major surface combatants in modern naval warfare.

The Royal Malaysian Air Force has a list of antique aircraft. The F-5E/F fighters, purchased in the early 1970s and 1980s and upgraded in the mid-2000s, are supposed to keep operable. As several international F-5 users, such as Switzerland and Indonesia, chose to replace them with newer models for better radars, avionics and payload, with the upgrade and without procurement, Malaysian F-5s would like to extend their service to the foreseeable future. The C-130 transporters from the 1970s would not be classified as antique due to their wide service in various countries, including the US, and the qualification of overhaul and modification in the indigenous aviation industry would provide adequate support.

(Wu Shang-Su is Research Fellow, Military Studies Programme, Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies)
Omnireole and Omnipresent

Dassault Aviation’s Rafale twin-engined fighter aircraft is one of the leading contenders for Malaysia’s requirement for 18 state-of-the-art combat aircraft to replace its ageing MiG-29 fighter jets. What will certainly help the Rafale campaign in Malaysia, is the fact that the type is now seeing extensive combat operations with the French Air Force and has notched up export successes in Egypt and Qatar, with India expected to join the ranks of Rafale customers. French officials attending DSA 2016 tell Daily News, “We are optimistic of the chances of the Rafale for Malaysia. Our recent successes in Egypt, Qatar and hopefully soon in India will further add to export prospects for Rafale.” The latest variant of the Rafale that is in service with the French Air Force is being offered to Malaysia, along with a technical assistance in Malaysia that will allow for the creation of a substantial local maintenance, repair and support infrastructure for the aircraft and its systems to cater for a period of service of 40 years for the type. At present Rafale export orders stand at 48, with Egypt (24 Rafale) and Qatar (24 Rafale). Dassault Aviation has confirmed that a fourth export contract (in addition to Egypt, Qatar and India) would be needed for an increase in the production rate of the Rafale to three aircraft per month. Measures have already been taken by the company to raise the production rate to three Rafales per month in 2018, versus one per month previously.

Rheinmetall BK27 on Gripens for Sweden and Brazil

Rheinmetall will supply a total of 88 Gripen NG (“Next Generation”) fighter aircraft with its BK27 automatic cannon. The cannon will come with a newly developed linkless ammunition feeding system and the order is worth a mid-eight-figure euro amount.

Delivery of the globally acclaimed Mauser 27mm revolver cannon from Rheinmetall Oberndorf for the new Gripen NGs will take place between 2017-2025. Rheinmetall will also supply the ammunition for the weapon system.

Older generation combat aircraft like the multi-role Tornado, feature the gas-operated revolver cannon in its linked ammunition-feeding version and the linkless version, serves as the standard weapon in the while the Eurofighter.

Approximately 3,500 systems have been manufactured to date.
Further Orders for Black Shark Torpedo Expected

Finmeccanica Defence Systems expects further orders from SE Asia for its Black Shark torpedo. The Black Shark is already in use on Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) Scorpens and the highly potent torpedo, makes use of state-of-the-art technologies to deliver a deadly strike. An official at the Finmeccanica Defence Systems stand, tells Daily News, “We are also in discussions with another country in the region for a Black Shark torpedo order.” Finmeccanica has achieved substantial success with sales of the Black Shark torpedo to customers worldwide, including Malaysia, Singapore, Italy, Portugal, Chile and India has also shortlisted the Black Shark for its Scorpene fleet. “This is the best heavy torpedo in the world and we have made it even better with our new lithium-polymer technology rechargeable batteries that have been tested by the Italian Navy,” the official tells Daily News. The new batteries are easier to handle and substantially improve safety on-board submarines. The Scorpene can be also be integrated on Russian Kilo Class submarines though there has been no request till date for the work to be performed.

Azerbaijan Displays Modern Fire Arms

Azerbaijan is displaying about 220 samples of defence products, including its new firearms, at the ongoing DSA exhibition.

“We have the EM-14 5.56 mm assault rifle, 7.62 mm Yirtiji semi-automatic sniper rifle, and the 40 mm RBG/M11 revolver grenade launcher on display,” says Ramzi Shukurov, Deputy Head of Military-Technical Cooperation Department.

The EM-14 is a derivative of the Khazri rifle. Compared with the earlier Khazri, the EM-14 is equipped with a longer forearm with a MIL-STD-1913 Picatinny rail and an M4-type telescopic buttstock.

“We plan to start serial production of this gun by the end of this year or early next year,” Shukurov adds.

The Anew 7.62x54R mm semi-automatic sniper rifle called Yirtiji is also on display at the show. The weapon features a 620 mm barrel, weighs 6 kg, and is fed from a 10-round Dragunov steel magazine, he explains.

RBG 40mm/6 M11 Revolver-type Grenade Launchers 40 mm represents a modern infantry light fire support weapon. It features 6-round drum, drum revolving by means of helical spring which is wound prior to firing, respectively.
Delivering Best in Class Defence Solutions

Thales has been a vital partner in the modernisation plan of the Malaysian Armed Forces, where it has offered the full scope of its defence expertise and experience for the defence of Malaysia. In the field of Communications and Command & Control systems, Thales has been providing the Malaysian Army with its secured digital communication solutions as part of the major digitalisation programme of the Malaysian Armed Forces. STE is also providing integration on various platforms and is a major supplier for DEFTECH (Defence Technologies Sdn Bhd). These vehicles are part of the 257 armoured vehicle units that were designed, developed, manufactured and commissioned by DEFTECH under a contract awarded in 2011.

The first 12 units of the 8X8 Infantry Fighting Vehicle 25 mm (IFV25), were handed over to the Malaysian Army in December 2014. As a subcontractor to DEFTECH in this programme, Thales was in charge of the integration of an advanced open vehicle electronic architecture. Thanks to its expertise in C4ISR systems for Land Forces, Thales delivered and integrated a scalable vehicle electronic architecture in the AV8 programme.

In the Naval sector, Thales has supplied the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) with state-of-the-art above water and underwater sensors and mission systems installed on-board various Malaysian ships and combatants. Thales has signed a contract to supply six SMART-S Mk2 naval surveillance radar systems, as well as six CAPTAS-2 towed sonar systems for the RMN’s Second Generation Patrol Vessel (SGPV) Littoral Combat Ships (LCS). Thales has also successfully performed integration work of its combat system (Tacticos) on Kasturi class corvettes for the RMN.
Malaysia to Get 2 More A400M in 2016

Malaysia will take delivery of two more A400Ms in 2016, to complete its order for four of the new generation airlifter. “We delivered the second aircraft in January, and in fact all four aircraft will have been handed over by the end of this year,” an Airbus Defence & Space spokesperson tells Daily News.

Malaysia has also constructed a very impressive purpose-built hangar at Subang air force base which can accommodate all four aircraft and crew training is now in full swing at the Airbus Defence & Space International Training Centre in Seville, Spain. As of February, this year 14 pilots have completed their training. Airbus Defence & Space is also delivering on its agreed support package which includes line maintenance, technical assistance, flight operations and spares management.

Malaysia was the first export customer for the A400M and the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF), displayed the type at LIMA 2015, a week after it took delivery of the aircraft and at the Singapore Air Show 2016, where the airlifter made its maiden show appearance outside Malaysia.

Additional military capabilities are being continually introduced on the A400M as the type matures in military service and already limited paratrooping and air-dropping operations have been certified. More capabilities will be added in a stepwise manner in 2016 and work continues on low-level and night qualification. 18 A400Ms were assembled in 2015, which was twice as many as the previous year. “We’ve substantially regained the confidence of our customers and are now putting all our efforts into managing the ramp-up, fleet availability and getting the further military capabilities ready,” company officials tell Daily News.

In 2015, 21 A400Ms were delivered to customers and four more had been transferred to the UK RAF, these are counted by the RAF as part of their fleet although they have not been contractually delivered. The four RAF aircraft are being used for a UK-specific Defensive Aids Sub-System (DASS) conversion, which will be delivered in spring 2016.

The A400M is delivering on its promise of unmatched capability for an aircraft in its class as customers that have received aircraft so far are making increasing use of their aircraft. UK aircraft which are now flying worldwide, including routine flights to the US and a global tour have reached some 1,700 flight hours. A German A400M flew an international aid mission to Senegal non-stop, which the C-160 could only have done with refuelling.

The French Air Force has been conducting routine transport missions to Mali, Djibouti, N’Djamena and others in support of its sub-Saharan combat operations, as well as transatlantic flights.

Malaysian Hawks to Receive Upgrades

The BAE Systems Hawk is an aircraft type that is in widespread use in the region with 84 aircraft in service across Asia Pacific (Australia, Malaysia and Indonesia). The size of the fleet and proven performance of the Hawk, makes it a type that is ideally suited for potential aircraft upgrades. This is especially important as users seek to upgrade their Hawk AJTs to cater for new generation combat types to be inducted in the future. “Our other main area of focus in the region is Hawk Upgrades for which we are again, mainly focused on Malaysia at this time,” a BAE Systems official tells Daily News. “We are in the process of working with Malaysian Aerospace company AIROD to provide a capability upgrade to the RMAF Hawk fleet,” said the official. “This upgrade focuses on the Self-Protection Systems and Mission Planning and Debrief systems which are necessary to conduct operational flying in a high threat environment.” The upgrade will also be applicable to the Hawk aircraft operated by Indonesia and Oman.
Ready to Tackle New Challenges

Defence Security Asia 2016 continues to maintain its prominence as the premier land and naval systems exhibition in the region. At the opening reception of the show, Malaysia’s Defence Minister YB Dato’ Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein highlighted the partnership and strong business focus of DSA, that has continued to attract defence and security firms from all over the world and significant national participation. The Minister highlighted the changes in the world environment in the recent years, with events such as the Arab Spring and lone wolf attacks in the capital cities of the world, to tsunamis and the global financial crisis, “Events in the recent past have shown us that adversities come when we least expect it.” “We have to accept that uncertainty is a permanent part of our lives and here to stay and we owe it our people to protect them and to defend their interests. They need to know that they can place their trust in our defence capabilities and we cannot fail them.” By virtue of its unique position as the premier show in the region, and the quality of exhibitors it attracts, DSA showcases the latest trends and technologies in defence and security activities and as such has an important role to play in the safety and security of Malaysia. “It is my hope that eventually DSA will be a premier platform to promote bilateral relationships and promote a higher level of commitment towards regional and global defence and peace,” said the Minister. This sentiment was certainly echoed by delegates at the official ceremony who were optimistic about the prospects of the latest in defence technology being acquired by Malaysia for its security needs, even in the face of a challenging procurement environment. The growth in the scope and scale of DSA 2016, despite a challenging defence procurement environment in Malaysia, is a sign that the show is now a gateway to defence prospects in the region and not only Malaysia. For defence companies seeking to enter the market, DSA is ready to tackle new challenges as it now looks forward to the next edition to be held in 2018.

DSA 2016 FACTS
• More than 1200 Companies from 60 Countries
• Greater 300 Foreign VIP Delegations from 45 Nations
• In Excess of 34000 Trade Visitors from 77 Countries
• 29 International Pavilions Featured
• New Countries Participating in 2016: Belarus, Bosnia, Canada, Netherlands, Russia, UAE and Ukraine
• First Ever Malaysian Defence & Security Hall
On display for the first time at DSA is the Nexter Systems 105 LG1 105 mm / 30 calibre assault artillery gun. The artillery system is being showcased by Nexter at DSA even though there is no formal requirement for such a system from the Malaysian Army. However, the 105 LG1 makes the perfect case for a light artillery weapon for special forces as it is the lightest 105mm gun in its class, say company officials. The gun weighs anywhere between 1.5 and 1.6 tonne depending on the configuration. A highly accurate artillery piece, the weapon has earned the nickname ‘Sniper’ for its accurate fire. Users of the 105 LG1 include, Singapore, Columbia, Belgium, Canada amongst other countries. The 105 LG1 can be towed by an all-terrain vehicle or be transportable with slings by a light or medium helicopter. 4 guns can be air transported in a C-130 aircraft.

The Caesar is also being offered by Nexter for a proposed requirement for a self-propelled gun (SPG) for Malaysia, though it is not clear if a tracked or wheeled solution is being looked at. The Caesar has been demonstrated to Malaysian military officials at Nexter’s facilities in France. The Caesar combines the best of tactical mobility and fire power and the 155mm/52 calibre artillery gun offers accurate long range fire support, while its wheeled chassis makes air transport possible. An entire Caesar system can be transported on a C-130 aircraft. Nexter remains bullish for the prospects of the Caesar in the region and already has two customers in Thailand which has purchased an estimated 37 systems and Indonesia is another operator in the region. The success of the Caesar in two demanding markets in Thailand and Indonesia, highlights the ability of the system to satisfy the most demanding requirements from the field in the South-East Asian region.

The maritime design of Fulmar allows the aircraft to take-off and land, while the ship is in motion, a key requirement of the MMEA. This capability offers an unrivalled competitive advantage to other systems in the market. Fulmar will extend the operational capabilities of the Malaysian maritime surveillance fleet, proving a broad range of operational capabilities including counter-piracy, anti-smuggling operations, fisheries policing and border surveillance. Automatic detection and tracking systems and Automatic Identification Systems (AIS) deliver unrivalled high performance surveillance on a flexible platform.
Saab is showcasing its latest weapon systems Carl-Gustaf M4 and the Ground-Launched Small Diameter Bomb (GLSDB) at the ongoing DSA exhibition.

Featuring for the first time at the DSA, these systems are tailor made defence and security solutions for Asia Pacific, according to Saab, and “make the best bet for Malaysia.”

“GLSDB is a long range precision incendiary solution that widens the capabilities of armed forces. Highly effective and accurate over long ranges, the GLSDB is designed to meet the evolving needs of today’s and tomorrow’s armed forces,” says Gorgen Johansson, head of Saab business area Dynamics.

Capable of conducting reverse slope engagements and defeating a range of targets, from hardened facilities to soft-skinned assets, the GLSDB can help add another dimension to armed forces’ capabilities.

“Developed in partnership with Boeing, the GLSDB is a flexible, precise and reliable weapon that exemplifies the value of Saab’s thinking edge,” he adds.

The contemporary weapon systems have been designed for busting tanks, holding positions and taking ground but they are so heavyweight for the troops that they are forced away from using it.

“Saab’s Carl Gustaf resolves this challenge for Malaysian army which may have operational requirements in both urban and strategically more demanding battle environments. Saab’s Carl Gustaf, AT4 and NLA weapons systems along with several others can enable a modern fighting force to become light, lethal and wired to meet the operational challenges of the 21st century,” Johansson says.

The shoulder-fired weapon system has a long and successful history, and is in use today in more than 40 countries worldwide, including India, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Japan and Indonesia. The system offers the soldier various types of ammunition, ranging from armour penetration and anti-personnel to ammunition for built-up areas, as well as special features like smoke and illumination.

“We have a range of smart ground combat products that work at par in all environments with relatively short time required for training. We particularly take great pride in the amount of firepower that our systems enable. The new Carl-Gustaf M4 has been developed in response to our customers’ needs for tomorrow. The Carl-Gustaf M4 is the next evolutionary step in the development of Saab’s multi-role, portable weapon systems. It can be deployed in any combat environment to effectively dictate the outcome of each engagement,” says Rolf Michel, Director, Business Management, Ground Combat Systems, Saab.

Through its wide variety of ammunition, Carl-Gustaf has made advances as the main weapon of Special Forces.

Saab’s lightweight Carl-Gustaf M4, introduced recently to the market, has all the flexibility and lethality of previous Carl-Gustaf variants. With its far-reaching design changes and improvements, the system now weighs less than 7 kg, delivering a significant improvement in soldier mobility. The M4 is also compatible with future battlefield technology such as intelligent sighting systems for programmable ammunition.
Demand for Canine Sleuths

Escalating global concerns about aviation safety and border security are contributing to a rapid growth in demand for South African-trained sniffer dogs.

Mechem is one of the world’s most trusted breeders and trainers of canine detectives and its four-legged sleuths have a well-earned reputation for sniffing out explosives, drugs, smuggled animal products and other contraband.

Ashley Williams, the General Manager of Mechem, says there is a global shortage of quality working dogs. Regional tensions and recent incidents of terrorism on passenger airlines have led to a comprehensive rethink about security measures at airports and border posts.

Many countries are now rediscovering the capacity of sniffer dogs to screen cargo at loading bays at busy airports and to perform spot checks on vehicles moving across international borders. When you combine the natural abilities of well-trained dogs with advances in modern scanning technology you are able to provide a comprehensive security solution.

Williams says the Mechem dogs and handlers are in great demand in many conflict regions. Through the years trained teams have proven their value in landmine detection operations in countries such as South Sudan, Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The reputation of the dogs was enhanced when they uncovered a major drug smuggling operation in the West African country of Benin. Efforts to hide heroin in aircraft parts, bolts and screws could not prevent the dogs from detecting the contraband. Mechem was contracted to provide sniffer dogs and training to the government of Benin.

Cross-border tensions in West Africa have led to other countries in the region turning to Mechem for the training of dogs and handlers to be deployed at strategic border posts.

The key to the success involves the training of dogs and handlers as a team, explains Dr Hannes Slabbert, the Senior Manager: Canine Business. Clients have the options of utilising the services of teams provided by Mechem, or sending handlers to South Africa for training.

It takes up to 12 weeks to train a novice handler and a further three months to become a fully-certified trainer. Detection teams trained by Denel are used by governments, nature conservation bodies, police services and the private sector.

Slabbert says that the unique system which combines modern technology with the canines’ capabilities to search for and uncover a wide range of substances, gives the teams their edge.

UK Seeks Long Term Partnerships with Malaysian Companies

UK companies are showcasing a range of state-of-the-art defence capabilities at DSA 2016. UK based companies are looking at DSA 2016, as an important show, as they look to establish long term joint ventures and industrial partnerships with Malaysian companies. Highlighting this effort is the presence of the Defence Solutions Centre, which is exhibiting at DSA for the first time and will be available to offer advice and support to Malaysia and the region. “Malaysia is an important partner and by sharing our experiences and knowledge in areas like border protection we will continue to deepen and strengthen our defence and security relationship,” said Philip Dunne, Minister for Defence Procurement. Stephen Phipson Head UKTI DSO said: “Malaysia is a very important defence and security market for the UK and DSA 2016 gives UK companies an excellent opportunity to showcase a range of capabilities including border protection. The key themes of the UK presence at DSA 2016 are; protection of borders, critical national infrastructure, innovation and partnership and it is in these areas that UK companies will look for Malaysian partners to share their knowledge and knowhow.”
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