

# AgustaWestland chopper to service JX Nippon

**MIRI** — Weststar Aviation Services Sdn Bhd will deploy the AgustaWestland AW189 helicopter to provide offshore transportation services for its RM10 million JX Nippon Oil & Gas Exploration Sdn Bhd deal.

The helicopter will fly from Miri Airport to transport offshore workers and goods for JX Nippon's deep-water exploration drilling project at the deep-water block DW2F located 210 nautical miles offshore Sarawak, South China Sea.

Weststar Aviation, which specialises in providing offshore helicopter transportation services to the oil and gas industry, received the letter of award on July 14, and the contract is for the duration of three months, with an extension

option to come in October.

"This is the first AW189 of four that we have ordered. Furthermore, this is also an important milestone in order to harness our unique opportunities for upward mobility, moving from medium-type helicopters to heavy-type helicopters.

"We are seeing more opportunities to utilise this type of heavy helicopter surfacing to support deep-water operations in Sabah and Sarawak," Weststar business development director Datuk Anuar Noordin said in a statement yesterday.

He said that with the AW189 helicopter, clients have the option to run a more cost effective operation that translates into a compar-

atively lower cost for every passenger on board.

Besides, the AW189 comes with the latest modern avionics system that is proven to improve the overall performance of the aircraft from every aspect, particularly safety.

"At a time when the oil and gas market is soft and plummeting oil prices are causing more companies to put their expansion plans on hold, the cost effectiveness of running the AW189 provides a simple solution for the current situation," said Anuar.

At present, the company owns and operates a fleet of AgustaWestland and Sikorsky helicopters used exclusively to provide offshore support services for multinational oil and gas companies.