



WESTSTAR AVIATION SERVICES HONOURED AS RECIPIENT OF 500TH AGUSTAWESTLAND AW139

Malaysian Minister of Defence Datuk Seri Zahid Hamidi present to witness handover ceremony held during prestigious Farnborough International Airshow 2012 in the UK

FARNBOROUGH, 12th July: Weststar Aviation Services Sdn Bhd, a member of the Weststar Group of Companies, today marked yet another milestone when it was honoured as the recipient of the 500th AW139 helicopter delivered by AgustaWestland, a Finmeccanica company, the British-Italian helicopter design and manufacturing company.

The helicopter was handed over during a ceremony held during the Farnborough International Airshow at Hampshire in the UK, with Tan Sri Syed Azman Syed Ibrahim, Weststar Group Managing Director, present to accept the AW139 from Bruno Spagnolini, CEO of AgustaWestland. Also present to witness the ceremony was Malaysian Minister of Defence Datuk Seri Zahid Hamidi and Italian Minister of Defence the Honourable Giampaolo di Paola.

Weststar Aviation Services is the largest operator of AW139 helicopters in Asia, along with being the largest offshore aviation services provider in the region, and has to date ordered a total of 16 AW139s from AgustaWestland. This aircraft is the 13th AW139 to be delivered.

“As the leading offshore aviation services provider in the region, Weststar Aviation Services is proud to be affiliated with the top helicopter manufacturers in the world and honoured to be a part of this impressive milestone for AgustaWestland. The AW139 helicopter is truly the best in its class and it has served us very well. I am sure that AgustaWestland will continue to enjoy great success with the AW139 and its variants,” said Tan Sri Syed Azman Syed Ibrahim, Managing Director of the Weststar Group of Companies.

“The AW139 continues to be the outright class leader worldwide and we are delighted that we are celebrating the delivery of the 500th aircraft with one of our most important customers, Weststar Aviation Services,” said Bruno Spagnolini, CEO of AgustaWestland during the ceremony.

“We look forward to achieving similar success with the AW139’s new family members, the AW169 and AW189, which have the same high performance and modern technology features that have made the AW139 such a success,” he said, adding that the 500th delivery comes just one year after AgustaWestland delivered the 400th helicopter.

Having started AW139 operations on 1st April 2011, Weststar Aviation Services’ fleet has now flown more than 16,000 hours in support of prominent oil & gas companies such as PetronasCarigali, ExxonMobil, Newfield, Talisman, Petrofac and TOTAL from their Kota Bahru, Kerteh and Kuala Terengganu bases in Peninsular Malaysia.

The current total value of Weststar Aviation Services’ offshore aviation contracts is estimated at RM5 billion.

This latest addition to the fleet will be used to service a new contract to provide offshore aviation services in East Malaysia.

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Picture Caption:



From Left to Right :

Tan Sri Syed Azman Syed Ibrahim (Weststar Group Managing Director), Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi (Malaysian Minister of Defence), Giuseppe Orsi (Finmeccanica Chairman and CEO), Gianpaolo Di Paola (Italian Minister of Defence), Bruno Spagnolini (AgustaWestland CEO)