



Weststar Aviation Services chief executive officer Gen (Rtd) **Tan Sri Muhammad Ismail Jamaluddin** (right) receiving a congratulatory plaque from AgustaWestland Malaysia managing director and regional head **Vincenzo Alaimo** at the ceremony.

# AgustaWestland honours Weststar, pilots

**MILESTONE:** Aviation company's AW139 helicopter fleet clocks 20,000 flying hours within 18 months

## KUALA LUMPUR

SIX pilots of Weststar Aviation Services who achieved a minimum of 1,000 flying hours with the AgustaWestland AW139 helicopter have been honoured by the leading helicopter manufacturer.

In a ceremony held at their Kota Baru base in Kelantan on Thursday, Weststar Aviation Services Sdn Bhd chief executive officer Gen (Rtd) Tan Sri Muhammad Ismail Jamaluddin received a congratulatory plaque from AgustaWestland Malaysia managing director and regional head Vincenzo Alaimo.

Alaimo presented Ismail with a recognition for Weststar's ability to reach the impressive milestone of 20,000 flying hours with their AW139 intermediate twin-engine helicopter fleet.

"We would like to thank AgustaWestland for supporting us in achieving our 20,000 hours milestone within 18 months. We look forward to greater collaboration with AgustaWestland and hope that they will continue to provide quality service to support our operations," said Ismail.

Alaimo lauded Weststar for achieving the 20,000 hours milestone in such a short time.

"Accomplishing its missions in demanding environmental and operational conditions is great. We now look forward to celebrate future major operational milestones with this leading customer, who is set to start introducing into service the complete AgustaWestland family of new-generation helicopters, including the all-new AW189 and AW169 models, as we get closer to certification expected in 2013 and 2014 respectively."

Weststar Aviation Services, the Malaysian offshore aviation services provider and the largest in Southeast Asia, achieved the milestone in just 18 months.

The company, which is also the largest civil operator of AW139 helicopters in Asia, has ordered 16 AW139s, with 12 aircraft already in service.

The company, a member of the Weststar Group of Companies, commenced AW139 operations in April last year from their bases in Kerteh and Kota Baru, and a forward base in Kuala Terengganu, to serve offshore oil and gas companies such as Petronas Carigali, ExxonMobil, Talisman, Newfield, Petrofac and Total.

Weststar will be the first operator worldwide to benefit from the commonality in design across the AW139, AW169 and AW189 family of new-generations helicopters.

As well as possessing the same high performance flight characteristics and safety features, the helicopters share a common cockpit layout, design philosophy and maintenance concepts that will allow for more effective and efficient operations and quicker familiarisation periods for pilots and staff.

The offshore division of Weststar Aviation Services, now has a total of 21 helicopters already delivered and on order, which are 15 AgustaWestland AW139, two AW169, two AW189 and two Sikorsky S76C++ helicopters. These helicopters are servicing various offshore aviation operations around Peninsular Malaysia. Their east coast operations are slated to commence next year.

In the general aviation sector, the company operates seven Eurocopter helicopters and one AW139 VIP helicopter as well as one Gulfstream, Boeing 737 and Boeing 727 business jets from its base at Subang.