

Weststar, Timor Leste sign military deal

GLOBAL Komited Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of Weststar Group of Companies, has signed a RM2.2 million contract for the supply of 10 initial Weststar general service (GS) cargo military vehicles with the defence forces of Timor Leste.

The delivery of the 10 vehicles, which is part of the 50 units to be delivered in the pipeline later this year, is due to be completed within four months of the contract signing.

"This particular deal inked with the Timor Leste government outlines our conviction stemming from the confidence the group as a whole exudes about growing our market share in each of the sector we have vested interests in," Weststar senior VP, automotive, Datuk Nik Hamdan Nik Hassan said.

The total worth of the 50 units contract is estimated to be about RM11 million, the company said in a statement yesterday.

Following months of negotiations and trials, Timor Leste has agreed to procure the GS cargo utility vehicle as part of its military vehicle line-up expansion exercise.

"We strongly believe, with the strong partnerships that we have forged with our synergistic knowledge and technical partners, we will be able



Timor Leste Secretary of State for Defence Julio Tomas Pinto (left) shaking hands with Global Komited Sdn Bhd CEO Ir Mohd Nasser Israil as Nik Hamdan and Ambassador Tajul Rahman Aman Mohammad (back row) looks on

to break more grounds and penetrate more new markets beyond local shores.

"With the strong faith we have in the current line-up of our customised military vehicles, we are intently eyeing to strengthen the subsidiary's standing in the cutting edge engineering and vehicle customisation sectors," Nik said.

The light utility GS cargo military vehicles, currently being used by the Malaysian

armed forces, are customised and fabricated utilising 40% of parts and materials sourced locally in Malaysia.

Designed to facilitate a wide range of security and defence roles, the GS cargo is available in various configurations that include hard and soft tops as well as manual and automatic transmissions put together to meet military-specific requirements for rigorous land base applications.

In addition, the 750kg low

maintenance utility vehicle, built off the base model of a civilian chassis boasts a generous volume capacity, which can carry up to 10 soldiers with full gear and cargo.

Further, the 2.5-litre engine vehicle operates efficiently on road and cross-country operations, hence, offering a robust operational flexibility with superb mobility and manoeuvrability capabilities while at the same time being air transportable.