

Weststar appointed Starstreak contractor

KUALA LUMPUR: Weststar Group has been appointed as the main contractor for the Defence Ministry's latest state-of-the-art Starstreak Very Short Range Air Defence (VSHORAD) system from Thales Air Defence Ltd.

The system will provide enhanced capability to protect key national assets against established and emerging threats.

Weststar managing director Tan Sri Syed Azman said the system procurement would be a key part of augmenting the capabilities of the nation's air defence forces.

"The deal involves upgrading the ministry's missile defence system by capitalising on the trade-in programme for the previous Starburst missiles with the much-improved Starstreak missiles. This has enabled the ministry to realise substantial savings.

"The delivery of the integrated air defence system will come in a complete package that includes an air surveillance or engagement radar as well as a command and control system," he said.

The Starstreak system is designed to provide detection, threat evaluation, weapon allocation and engagement of a range of threats, including fixed-wing, helicopters, missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles.

Thales produces the fastest new-generation VSHORAD missiles.

"These missiles boast the ability to fly a kilometre within a second. With the assistance of a laser beam, the operator controls all three of the dart-missiles simultaneously. As a result, the laser beam guide increases positive target and reduces the risk of collateral damage," added Syed Azman.



Defence Minister **Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein** (centre) witnessing the handing-over of the procurement contract between Weststar Group managing director **Tan Sri Syed Azman** (second from right) and ministry secretary-general **Datuk Seri Abdul Rahim Mohamad Radzi** (left) in Kuala Lumpur.