

WESTSTAR AVIATION BAGS CONTRACT WORTH RM370M



Weststar Aviation director of business development **Datuk Anuar Noordin** (right) and Carigali Hess Operating Co manager **Decha Kocharoenkit** at the Weststar's Kota Baru hangar in Kelantan.

Weststar wins RM370m contract

KUALA LUMPUR: Weststar Aviation Services Sdn Bhd, which plans to raise RM1.5 billion from its listing, has won a RM370 million contract to provide two AgustaWestland AW139 helicopters for Carigali Hess Operating Co (CHOC) and CarigaliPT-TEPI Operating Co (COC) Sdn Bhd.

The contract is the first of many jobs which Weststar Aviation hopes to secure this year.

Founder Tan Sri Syed Azman Syed Ibrahim told Business Times recently that the company has tendered for new jobs globally valued at more than US\$200 million (RM740 million) with a focus on Indonesia and Africa.

Weststar Aviation provides offshore helicopter transport for oil and gas firms. It is the largest helicopter

operator in Southeast Asia, with operations in Malaysia, Thailand and Morocco.

The 15-seater medium-sized twin-engine AW139 helicopter will help CHOC and COC to expand their operations over a five-year period effective yesterday.

The helicopters will operate from Weststar Aviation's base in Kota Baru, Kelantan.

Weststar Aviation director of business development Datuk Anuar Noordin said in the current industry and market irregularities, it is a timely boost for the company's strategic expansion to further consolidate its standing in markets where its clients operate.

He said the company is growing its regional footprint, particularly in

the emerging Asean markets.

"We have an expanding fleet of AW139 helicopters. The helicopter is highly sought-after in the oil and gas industry for its safety features, and it is one of the few helicopters fully certified in terms of safety for offshore oil rig operations," Anuar said in a statement yesterday.

The company's oil and gas clients include Petronas Carigali, Exxon-Mobil, Carigali Hess, CPOC, Talisman, Petrofac, Newfield, TOTAL, KPOC, Lundin, WesternGeco, Hess, Shell, Tullow Oil, Mubadala Petroleum, CGG Veritas, ConocoPhillips, INPEX Offshore, PTTEP, Galp Energia Tarfayabb, PC Mauritania, EnQuest, JX Nippon Oil & Energy Co, and Kosmos Energy.

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