

The Tejas at Langkawi




LIMA '19
THE LANGKAWI INTERNATIONAL
MARITIME & AEROSPACE EXHIBITION
26 - 30 MARCH 2019

And other highlights of LIMA 2019

The Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (popularly 'LIMA') takes place every two years at this attractive tourist destination on Malaysia's western periphery. The 15th edition took place during 26-30 March 2019 and witnessed some 'unusual' aircraft sales contests, including those between Indian, Russian and Korean aircraft types, all vying to meet the Malaysian requirement for new light combat aircraft. However, according to industry observers, a string of other manufacturers also responded to the requirement of the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) for this requirement, including Saab which reportedly submitted its proposal to the RMAF in late February, offering the latest Gripen C MS20 sub-variant, with access to the MBDA Meteor beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile and other improved weapon systems. The Swedish National Export Credits Guarantee Board (EKN) could well offer export credit support and be the possible solution for the budgetary issues faced by the RMAF.

Russia's Rostec and South Korea's Korea Aerospace Industries (KAI) are both hoping that earlier regional exports in Southeast Asia would be a good report



card for the Yak-130 and FA/T-50, respectively. The former has exported Yak-130s to Bangladesh, Myanmar and Laos. Speaking to the media during LIMA, Sergey Gorbenko, Rosoboronexport's Chief of Directorate, said it will be proposing 18 Yak-130s for the first phase with an option for 36 more in the second phase.

A no-so-dark horse is the Chengdu/PAC JF-17 Thunder which although not present at LIMA 2019, was subject of

official discussions during the Malaysian Prime Minister's visit to Islamabad a week earlier.

There was understandable excitement in India that the Tejas LCA was being displayed and demonstrated at this international airshow. Two series production LCAs from No.45 Squadron IAF, commanded by Gp Capt Samrath Dhankhar had been ferried from Sulur in South India via Kalaikunda in Bengal and Yangon in Myanmar to