

Weststar Aviation Services makes Asean foray

KUALA LUMPUR: Weststar Aviation Services Sdn Bhd, a member of the Weststar Group of Companies, yesterday announced the successful launch of its first regional expansion in Asia after its new Songkhla base in Thailand commenced operations on a seven-year PTT Exploration and Production (PTTEP) contract last Friday.

Weststar Aviation Services' expansion into Thailand comes after a joint venture with its new Thai partner, United Offshore Aviation (UOA), the offshore aviation arm of the Nathalin Group of Companies, which is one of the largest transportation and energy group of companies in Thailand.

It has multiple business interests in marine transport, green energy and ship management, among others.

PTTEP is a leading Thai Petroleum Exploration and Production Company that is among the top 10 public listed companies on the Stock

Exchange of Thailand and operates more than 40 projects around the world.

"The joint venture with UOA represents another big step forward for Weststar Aviation Services and reflects our growing presence in the global offshore aviation industry," Tan Sri Syed Azman Syed

Ibrahim, group managing director of the Weststar Group, said in a statement yesterday.

The seven-year PTTEP contract, with an option for a two-year extension, is worth RM2 billion and will utilise six AgustaWestland AW139 helicopters and a total of 140 staff at the Songkhla base.

The Songkhla base is Weststar Aviation Services' seventh operations base and marks the Malaysian corporation's second venture overseas, with its first international base having commenced operations for Tullow Oil in Nouakchott, Mauritania, in May last year.