

Samtel to produce Avionics Display Systems for HAL's star programmes - SU-30MKI, Light Combat Aircraft and Jet trainers

Samtel HAL Display Systems - a JV between Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Samtel Display Systems, today announced it has won a development order with a total value of more than Rs. 250 cr (US\$ 50 million) over the next few years, to manufacture indigenous next-generation Multi Functional Displays (MFDs) for Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL). The Samtel HAL JV was formed in 2006 as the first public-private partnership in this sector for developing and manufacturing avionics display systems. With this, the JV becomes the first Indian company to produce these MFDs in India.

In the first phase, Samtel HAL Display Systems will provide indigenous MFDs for HAL's star programme - the SU-30 MKIs. The LCD based MFDs have already undergone extensive testing by DARE (Defence Avionics Research Establishment) for their flight worthiness to be fitted on the fleet of SU-30 MKI to be produced over the next decade. The indigenous Multi Functional Displays (MFD), jointly developed with DARE (DRDO lab) and manufactured by Samtel has recently got clearance for flight-testing from RCMA (Regional Centre for Military Airworthiness). With this clearance, Samtel becomes the first Indian company to indigenize multifunctional displays for the Indian Defence forces.

The Multi-Functional display (MFD) is a device that puts all aircraft-systems monitoring and flight planning functions at the pilot's fingertips. The MFD displays a composite view of the aircraft's environment, providing the pilot with all necessary information to make safe decisions during every phase of flight. Engine performance and situational data such as location, terrain, traffic, and weather and airport information are all digitally depicted and can be quickly interpreted at a glance on the large-format display.

The next phase of this order will see Samtel Displays Systems fit MFDs for HAL's LCA and IJT programs. Samtel Display Systems has a JV with HAL to support production, design and integration of next-generation avionics display equipment and systems.

Commenting on the order, Samtel Group's CMD Mr. Satish Kaura said, *'The long term manufacturing agreement with HAL is clearly a milestone for public-private partnership in this highly sensitive and strategic sector. In addition to the production of MFDs, the agreement will also require sustained support for all of HAL's applied systems. The defense industries demand high quality and high performance avionics equipment and systems and Samtel is committed to maintaining these standards.'*

HAL Chairman, Mr. Ashok K. Baweja added, *'HAL is cruising ahead to become a powerhouse for design, analysis, engineering and software solutions. We are committed to leverage our joint synergies in encouraging and fostering Indian ambitions to be a leading role player in the world aviation scenario of the next decade.'*

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