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MANUFACTURING ALLIANCE

TASL signs deal with Bell Helicopter

By P.R. SANJAI
pr.sanjai@livemint.com

MUMBAI

Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) and US-based Bell Helicopter on Thursday agreed to jointly develop the helicopter market in India, including potential production and assembly, training, maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO), research and development (R&D) and technology sharing.

The agreement covers both commercial and government (including military) rotary wing markets in the light utility and reconnaissance segments, the companies said in a statement.

"TASL's alliance with Bell Helicopter is significant because of our shared synergies; our defence manufacturing capabilities and focus on innovation are well aligned with Bell Helicopter's core competence," said S. Ramadorai, chairman of TASL, a Tata Group-promoted company. "This will build on the partnerships that TASL already has in the rotorcraft market, allowing it to offer a full range of products to potential customers. The collaboration, which is in line with the government's Make

in India initiative, holds potential not only in the domestic market but will also strengthen India's position in the international market," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's emphasis on defence in the Make in India initiative to encourage manufacturing and attract foreign investment has encouraged many companies to seek licences for defence equipment manufacturing.

TASL, which works with several global original equipment manufacturers, provides solutions for aerospace, defence and homeland security. It has capabilities from design to full aircraft assembly and is well-positioned in other areas, such as missiles, radars, unmanned aerial systems, command and control systems, optronics and homeland security.

"TASL has been a leader in driving industrial growth in India, and its organization ideally complements Bell Helicopter both in terms of innovative thinking, manufacturing capability and a commitment to business ethics, integrity and customer satisfaction," said Mitch Snyder, president and chief executive of Bell Helicopter.