

## PRESS – ONLINE

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**NEW STRAITS TIMES BUSINESS TIMES**

### Defence and security deals worth RM8.1bil expected at DSA and Natsec Asia 2024



KUALA LUMPUR: A significant array of defence and security deals, totaling RM8.1 billion, are anticipated to be formalised during the Defence Services Asia (DSA) and National Security (Natsec) Asia 2024 exhibitions, scheduled from tomorrow till May 9.

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Khaled Nordin said the defence ministry is set to seal memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and contracts valued at RM6 billion during the event.

"We have identified contracts and MoUs worth RM6 billion that will be signed during the exhibition," he stated.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail disclosed that his ministry would be entering into 14 agreements worth RM2.1 billion.

At the 17th edition of DSA and Natsec Asia two years ago, the defence ministry sealed 54 defence contracts and MoUs worth RM4.6 billion, while the home ministry concluded one MoU and eight contracts worth RM2.596 billion.

The forthcoming 18th edition of DSA and Natsec Asia 2024 is slated to be held at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre (Mitec).

Highlighting the enhancements in this year's exhibition, Khaled said there was an increase in participation and scale, with a total of 1,324 companies from 60 countries showcasing their defence and security technologies.

"Significantly, 34 countries will have their own pavilions, including Turkiye, China, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Italy, and the United States. Additionally, Singapore, UAE, and Iran will be participating for the first time.

"In terms of participation, we will see 400 important delegates from over 50 countries made up of nations' leaders, defence ministers, home ministers and military chiefs," he said at a press conference together with Saifuddin following a walkabout session to witness the final preparations for the exhibitions.

Saifuddin emphasised that the international exhibition and conference would serve as a vital platform for exchanging information on crucial product and system developments relevant to law enforcement agencies and industry stakeholders regionally and globally.

He also underscored the importance of better alignment and integration between relevant national and international security and law enforcement agencies, particularly in light of the uncertain security environment.

As part of this effort, Saifuddin announced plans to host a town hall session focusing on cybersecurity.