

News Now**Samtel bags major HAL order worth 250 crore**

New Delhi, Jul 9 Samtel, a new entrant into the country's growing defence electronics market, today announced it had won a major deal order worth more than Rs 250 crores from the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited to manufacture indigenous Multi Functional Displays for SU-30 fighters and jet trainers.

Samtel, which is India's largest integrated manufacturer of television displays and avionics, said the production would be carried out in a joint venture company to be called 'Samtel-HAL Display Systems'.

With this the 300-million dollar company would be the first Indian JV to produce such Multi Functional Displays (MFDs) in the country. Samtel has also tied up with European aviation and defence system major Thales to make similar MFDs and cockpit helmets for the upgraded Mirage 2000.

"The LCD based MFDs have already undergone extensive testing by Defence Avionics and Research Establishment (DARE) for their flight worthiness," a company spokesman said.

These MFDs are likely to be installed in SU-30 MKI fighters which are being assembled at HAL under technology transfer from the Russian manufacturers. In the next few years HAL is to assemble 120 Sukois.

The systems would also be installed in HAL's own advanced intermediate jet trainers as well as British Hawk trainers.

"A long-term manufacturing agreement with HAL is clearly a milestone for public-private partnership in this highly sensitive and strategic sector," Satish Kaura, Samtel Group's Chief Managing Director said. PTI