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**EL ALAMEIN
INTERNATIONAL
AIRSHOW 2026**
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09 September 2026

EL ALAMEIN TAKES FLIGHT

**Egypt's premier airshow opens
with global aerospace leaders
and spectacular flying displays**

The second edition of the El Alamein International Airshow 2026 was inaugurated by President His Excellency Abdel Fattah El-Sisi at El Alamein International Airport, in the presence of President of Cyprus Nicos Christodoulides.

The three-day event brings together more than 150 global aerospace and defence companies, alongside senior government and military delegations and industry leaders from across the world. The show is showcasing advanced capabilities spanning military aviation, civil aviation, defence and space.



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Rosoboronexport is the sole state company in Russia authorized to export the full range of defense and dual-use products, technologies and services. Rosoboronexport accounts for over 85% of Russia's annual arms sales and maintains military-technical cooperation with over 100 countries worldwide.



BEYOND GNSS: EDGE'S PRECISION ADVANTAGE

A GNSS signal arriving at a receiver has travelled roughly 20,000 kilometres and carries less power than the background noise around it. Overwhelming it requires no great sophistication, and the equipment to do so is now cheap, portable, and widely held. For any air force whose precision inventory depends on satellite guidance, that is a planning problem rather than a technical curiosity.

EDGE arrives at El Alamein with an air domain portfolio in which that problem was addressed at the design stage. Across strike, loitering, and air defence, one discipline runs through the range: accuracy that does not rest on a single source.

The AL TARIQ all-weather, day/night long-range precision-guided munitions (PGMs) makes the clearest case. The highly modular guidance kit converts 120, 250, and 450 kg aerial munitions into stand-off weapons reaching 120 kilometres in long-range configuration. Its distinction is the seeker architecture. Alongside inertial navigation and GNSS, AL TARIQ carries an imaging infrared seeker with automatic target recognition or a semi-active laser option.

The imaging infrared seeker allows AL TARIQ to be released as a fire and forget weapon with no further external intervention. It identifies the target by what the target looks like, holding accuracy under two metres against stationary and relocatable objects. Where jamming degrades the satellite input, the weapon retains other means of finding its way. One kit fits the 250 to 450 kg range, which keeps the logistics burden low and the training requirement single. The AL TARIQ family is mission proven and in operational use, with a wireless integration solution fielded across several fighter types, and both digital and stand-alone integration options.

The SHADOW loitering munitions apply the same principle through different engineering. SHADOW 25 reaches 295 kilometres and SHADOW 50 reaches up to 290, and both pair GNSS with onboard video navigation and optical attack guidance. Video navigation matches what the aircraft sees against what it expects to see, preserving a positional reference when satellite input becomes unreliable.

For a loitering munition this matters more than for a munition released seconds from impact. These aircraft hold overhead while they search, and the longer a system stays airborne, the greater its exposure to interference.

The two loitering munitions otherwise answer different problems. SHADOW 25 is jet-powered and cruises at 450 km/h, built for targets that will not wait. SHADOW 50 trades speed for nine hours of endurance and a 50 kg payload, staying over a target area for the better part of a working day.

Both launch from a trailer-mounted canister with rocket assisted take-off or from a pneumatic catapult, removing any dependence on prepared runways or fixed infrastructure. For forces operating across dispersed territory, that is often the difference between a capability being available and being theoretically available.

The DESERT STING guided-glide weapons and THUNDER PGMs come at the problem from the other direction, and the numbers make the argument plainly. Both families use inertial guidance augmented by GNSS, a configuration EDGE designates GAINS, and both offer a semi-active laser seeker.

On GAINS alone, accuracy is 10 metres CEP. Add the laser seeker and it falls to three. That gap is not a marketing distinction. It is the margin between a weapon dependent on

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satellite quality and one that can be talked onto its target by a designator on the ground or in another aircraft, whatever the electromagnetic environment is doing.

On the DESERT STING 25 (DS-25), that laser configuration works with or without GNSS. Satellite input is an advantage where available, not a prerequisite.

The approach scales across weight classes. DESERT STING 16 (DS-16) is a 23 kg glide weapon with a 12 kg warhead, reaching 15 kilometres when released at 220 knots calibrated airspeed (KCAS) from 30,000 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). The DS-25 roughly doubles both figures, at 47 kg gross weight with a 24 kg pre-fragmented warhead, and extends range beyond 24 kilometres. THUNDER converts MK-81, MK-82, and MK-84 general-purpose aerial munitions into PGMs at ranges to 27 kilometres. An operator running a mixed inventory can apply one guidance philosophy from the lightest to the heaviest munition in stock, rather than a different accuracy model for each.

The final element completes the logic, because it faces the other way. The SKYKNIGHT air defence missile system exists in part to defeat the weapons described above. Its threat list covers PGMs, cruise missiles, glide bombs, and unmanned aircraft, alongside rockets, artillery, and mortars.

A single battery holds up to 80 missiles in flight simultaneously, engaging rotary-wing aircraft, UAVs, and cruise missiles to 10 kilometres, and rocket, artillery, and mortar threats to four. Detection and tracking run on AESA multi-mission radar rather than satellite reference. The system transports in 20-foot containers, so protection follows the force rather than staying where it was first installed. A naval launcher variant carrying 21 missiles at two rounds per second extends the same cover to coastal and maritime assets, which matters for operators working the Mediterranean and Red Sea approaches.

Taken together, the portfolio describes a coherent position. The same electromagnetic pressure that degrades an attacker's guidance degrades a defender's, and a supplier that has



engineered for one side of that exchange is better placed to design for the other.

For operators across North Africa and the wider region the practical implications are direct enough. Long borders and dispersed infrastructure call for systems that work at range and without prepared support. Substantial existing inventories of general-purpose munitions represent capability that guidance kits can unlock without fleet-level procurement. And satellite navigation is no longer something a force can reasonably assume will be available when it matters.

None of this makes GNSS obsolete. Every system here uses it, and uses it well when conditions allow. The distinction is that none relies on it alone a decision taken early in design, and one that cannot be retrofitted to a weapon built on the older assumption.

Visit EDGE at stand C70.





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High-Precision Weapons Presents Advanced Armaments at El Alamein Airshow

The High-Precision Weapons Joint Stock Company is presenting a range of in-demand weapons and military equipment, along with new developments and solutions, at the El Alamein International Airshow 2026 in Egypt.

High-Precision Weapons carries out the complete development cycle for advanced weapons, from concept to finished product. Among the company's best-known high-precision weapons and military systems are the latest Pantsir family air defence systems and their surface-to-air missiles, the Kornet-EM anti-tank guided missile system, Iskander-E operational-tactical missile system, Igla-S man-portable air defence system, 305E light multipurpose guided missile, Berezhok combat module, BMP-3 infantry fighting vehicle and BMD-4M amphibious assault vehicle, among others.

International Premiere of Bison Anti-UAV Defence System



For the first time at El Alamein, High-Precision Weapons is presenting its latest aerial target engagement system, Bison, to the general public.

Designed to protect infrastructure facilities from drones, the system is capable of detecting, acquiring, identifying and tracking unmanned aerial vehicles and engaging them with machine-gun armament at any time of the day.

The Bison comprises a command post and machine-gun mounts. The command post conducts radar reconnaissance and provides target designation to the machine-gun mounts, which are controlled from automated workstations.

Each machine-gun mount is equipped with four 7.62mm machine guns and incorporates an optoelectronic system with television and thermal-imaging channels, an automatic target-tracking system and a laser rangefinder.

"All processes are fully automated. The operator only needs to make a decision and issue the command to engage the target. The system demonstrates high effectiveness in real-world conditions," the company said.

Latest Pantsir Air Defence Systems



High-Precision Weapons is also presenting the latest Pantsir-SMD-E anti-aircraft missile system, together with the Pantsir-S1M anti-aircraft missile and gun system and their range of missiles, including short-range interceptor missiles.

The Pantsir-SMD-E is designed to protect industrial and administrative facilities against large-scale drone attacks. The system is equipped with a fire-control system comprising a surveillance radar, multifunctional radar and electro-optical system.



The Pantsir-SMD-E is capable of detecting and engaging air targets at medium and short ranges, while also assessing the effectiveness of fire in automatic mode.

Depending on mission requirements, the launchers can carry up to 48 short-range surface-to-air guided missiles or a mixed ammunition load comprising different types of surface-to-air guided missiles.

Airspace Control System



Another new addition to the exhibition is the mobile version of the Airspace Control System, designed to detect airborne objects, including unmanned aerial vehicles and small

aircraft, and provide continuous airspace surveillance.

The Airspace Control System represents one of the company's latest developments aimed at enhancing the protection of cities and critical facilities.

Combat-Proven Systems on Display

High-Precision Weapons is also presenting a number of its internationally recognised weapon systems at El Alamein.



Among them is the Iskander-E operational-tactical missile system, designed to engage small and area targets deep within an enemy's operational formation, including air defence and missile defence systems, command posts and airfields.

The company is also presenting the 305E light multipurpose guided missile, intended for use on attack helicopters and capable

of being guided to designated targets. Its warhead is designed to engage armoured vehicles, firing positions, buildings, air defence systems and artillery systems.

The Verba man-portable air defence system (MANPADS) is also on display. Its surface-to-air guided missiles feature advanced homing heads with enhanced sensitivity, accuracy, resistance to jamming and target selectivity. The Verba MANPADS is designed to engage aircraft, helicopters, cruise missiles and UAVs.

The Verba MANPADS can be mounted on the Dzhigit support launching unit, equipped with a target designation system and night sight, as well as on the 9A322 MANPADS squad combat vehicle, known as the Gibka-S. Both the Dzhigit and Gibka-S are

also on display at El Alamein.

The exhibition additionally features the Kornet-EM anti-tank guided missile system, Krasnopol-M2 guided projectile and the Berezhek combat module mounted on a BMP-2 chassis.

Among the newer systems being presented are the 9M134 Bulat guided missile and the X-UAV guided air-to-surface missile. Visitors can also see the Planshet-A, an automated system for managing artillery and mortar units.

The exhibition also features the Prometey Hardware and Software Package, which enables the remote operation of machinery for both military and civilian applications while retaining, when required, a manned mode of operation.

U.S. Airpower Takes Centre Stage at El Alamein

The United States is showcasing advanced military aircraft and aerospace capabilities at the Egypt International Airshow 2026 in El Alamein, reinforcing its longstanding defence partnership with Egypt and highlighting U.S. capabilities across military, commercial and aerospace sectors.

The second edition of the Egypt International Airshow officially opens at El Alamein International Airport, bringing together aviation and defence stakeholders from more than 80 countries. More than 50 aircraft are on display as participating nations demonstrate their aerospace capabilities and cooperation.

The United States is supporting the airshow with a display of U.S. military and civilian technology, aimed at strengthening the U.S.-Egypt strategic partnership across military, commercial and private aviation, aircraft manufacturing, aerospace technologies and related industries.

U.S. military personnel and aircraft from the U.S. Air Force and the Texas Air National Guard are participating alongside Egyptian and international counterparts. The U.S. presence includes military cargo aircraft, tactical air-to-air and air-to-ground combat fighters and close air support aircraft.

The U.S. aircraft on display include the U.S. Air Force C-130J Super Hercules, C-130H Hercules, A-10 Thunderbolt II, F-16

Fighting Falcon and F-15E Strike Eagle.

The U.S. is also opening its pavilion at the airshow, featuring more than 25 American companies from the aerospace and defence sectors. The pavilion provides a platform for U.S. companies and international stakeholders to explore partnerships and opportunities across aviation, aerospace, defence, space and commercial sectors.

Eric Gaudiosi, Charge d'Affaires, ad interim, U.S. Embassy in Cairo, said, "The United States is proud to participate in the El Alamein International Air Show 2026 and to open the U.S. Pavilion, featuring more than 25 American companies from among the world's leading aerospace and defense innovators. Our strong presence reflects the depth of the U.S.-Egypt partnership and our longstanding cooperation across the aviation, aerospace, defense, space, and commercial sectors. We look forward to building new partnerships and expanding opportunities that benefit both our countries."

The U.S. participation highlights the depth of defence and aviation cooperation between Washington and Cairo while providing opportunities for expanded industrial and commercial engagement at the regional airshow.



Boeing Showcases Advanced Airpower and Mission Capabilities



Boeing [NYSE: BA] participates as a Silver Sponsor at the El Alamein Airshow 2026, demonstrating its commitment to supporting the Egyptian Armed Forces and advancing regional defense capabilities. The three-day show ends on September 10.

"Egypt is one of the region's most important defense and security partners," said Dr. Brendan Nelson, senior vice president

of The Boeing Company and president of Boeing Global. "Our relationship with the Egyptian Armed Forces has been built over decades, and we are focused on enabling personnel to protect their country, respond to disasters, and return home safely."

At this year's show, Boeing highlights at its exhibit stand a focused selection of its proven and mission-ready platforms, including:

- The AH 64 Apache, a proven attack helicopter providing precision targeting, survivability and advanced sensors for close air support and armed reconnaissance.
- The CH-47 Chinook, a highly versatile, heavy-lift helicopter supporting troop transport, cargo movement, humanitarian assistance and special operations.
- The KC 46A Pegasus, an advanced multi-mission aerial refuelling aircraft designed to also support airlift and medical evacuation operations.

Boeing's relationship with the Egyptian military dates to 1979 when the Egyptian Air Force acquired the F 4 Phantom II. Over the decades, Egypt has expanded its Boeing fleet to include 43 AH-64D Apache attack helicopters and 18 CH-47D Chinook heavy-lift helicopters, both central to the country's operational and humanitarian missions.

Boeing has invested more than \$3 million in community programs in Egypt over the past 10 years, engaging approximately 9,800 participants in the last five years. Programs focus on STEM education, employability, entrepreneurship, and sustainability in support of Egypt Vision 2030. ■

L3Harris Highlights Advanced Defence Technologies at El Alamein



L3Harris is showcasing a range of defence, aerospace and aviation technologies at the El Alamein International Airshow, with a focus on capabilities supporting Egypt's F-16 and C-130 fleets.

The company is highlighting Viper Shield, its electronic

warfare solution for Egypt's F-16 fleet, alongside C-130 avionics, missionisation, maintenance modernisation and sustainment capabilities. L3Harris is also featuring SKY RAIDER II INTERNATIONAL, an ISR/strike aircraft designed for combat environments with limited infrastructure and short take-off and landing requirements.

Beyond these Egypt-focused solutions, L3Harris is presenting technologies spanning airborne intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR), electronic warfare, advanced analytics and the AERIS X airborne early warning and control system. Its portfolio also includes Drone Guardian counter-UAS technology, ISR sensors and payloads, tactical communications and WESCAM electro-optical/infrared surveillance and targeting systems.

The company's presence highlights its broader focus on aircraft modernisation, mission systems, ISR and integrated defence capabilities across air and other operational domains. ■

UAE Brings Its Defence Industry to the Global Stage



The UAE National Pavilion at the El Alamein International Airshow 2026 brings together leading Emirati companies across defence, aerospace, aviation, maintenance and advanced technology, highlighting the UAE's growing industrial and technological capabilities.

Supported by the UAE Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the Tawazun Council for Defence Enablement (Tawazun) and organised by ADNEC Group, the 871-square-metre pavilion features EDGE Group, Generation 5 Holding, Abu Dhabi Aviation and its group companies, and Multi Level Group.

EDGE Group is showcasing advanced multi-domain defence capabilities spanning autonomous systems, uncrewed aviation, precision effects and ammunition. Its display includes the SHADOW 25 and SHADOW 50 loitering munitions, HT-100 unmanned helicopter, SKYKNIGHT air defence missile system, DESERT STING precision-guided glide weapons, THUNDER and AL TARIQ precision-guided munitions, as well as artillery and aerial munitions.

Generation 5 Holding is presenting its capabilities across defence, aerospace and advanced technology, while exploring opportunities for cooperation in development, manufacturing, technical integration and research and development.

AD Aviation Group, through Abu Dhabi Aviation (ADA), GAL, AMMROC and Maximus Air, is showcasing its integrated aviation capabilities and expertise. GAL is displaying models of the F-16 and Rafale, while AMMROC is highlighting its military aviation maintenance, repair and overhaul capabilities, including its role as a Lockheed Martin-approved C-130 Hercules Service Centre for the Middle East and North Africa. Maximus Air is showcasing the Antonov AN-124-100 strategic heavy-lift aircraft.

The UAE Pavilion is also serving as a platform for industry engagement, collaboration and new business opportunities, connecting Emirati companies with international aerospace and defence stakeholders from across the Middle East, Africa and beyond.



Proudly representing India's aviation tyre excellence at Egypt Airshow 2026. MRF Aero Muscle continues to power aviation with world-class performance, reliability, and innovation.



Air Marshal Yalla Umesh, VSM, PhD, Commanding-in-Chief, Indian Air Force Maintenance Command, and Suresh K. Reddy, Ambassador of India to Egypt, along with G. Madhu, General Manager – Product, Commercial Tyres, MRF, and Thomas Mathen K., Senior General Manager – Product Development (F, D & O), MRF, at the MRF stall during the Egypt International Airshow 2026.

Russia's aerospace and defense industry showcases cutting-edge aviation, air defense, and aerospace technologies at Egypt Airshow 2026, highlighting innovation, capability, and global collaboration.



Rostec Ramps Up Delivery of Pantsir Air Defence Systems



Russia's Rostec has announced the delivery of another batch of Pantsir-S mobile air-defence missile and gun systems and Pantsir-SMD stationary surface-to-air missile systems. According to Rostec, the systems have completed the required testing and have been accepted by military representatives.

The newly delivered systems are designed to engage a broad range of aerial threats using different types of surface-to-air guided missiles, including standard, hypersonic and short-range missiles. Depending on the operational requirement, the launchers can carry a combination of missile types, with the Pantsir-SMD capable of carrying up to 48 short-range missiles.

"Systems from the Pantsir family are on twenty-four-hour combat standby duty and prove their high performance on a day-to-day basis. Their crews destroy a wide range of air targets, forming a reliable protective dome over troops and civilian objects," Rostec representatives said. The company highlighted the system's reported engagement record against UAVs, ballistic and cruise missiles and other airborne threats.

Pantsir-SMD-E for International Markets

The export version of the Pantsir-SMD is designated Pantsir-

SMD-E. The very-short-range air-defence system is designed to protect military, industrial and administrative facilities and other critical infrastructure against a wide range of aerial threats, including aircraft, helicopters, UAVs, cruise and guided missiles, anti-radar missiles and individual MLRS projectiles.

The system features a modular architecture and can employ two types of missiles. Each combat module can reportedly accommodate up to 48 TKB-1055 short-range SAMs or up to 12 57E6 missiles, or a combination of both.

According to Rosoboronexport Director General Alexander Mikheev, speaking at the Dubai Airshow 2025, the system is intended to provide protection for infrastructure such as oil and gas facilities against diverse aerial threats. Its modular configuration allows installation on buildings or concrete foundations, while the system can be remotely controlled and receive target data from external radars.

The latest deliveries highlight Rostec's continued emphasis on short- and very-short-range air defence, particularly against the growing threat posed by UAVs and other low-cost aerial systems.

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On the Show Floor

Egypt Airshow 2026 | El Alamein







Global Air Power Leaders Chart the Future at El Alamein Symposium



Future Aerospace Technology Symposium explores the technologies and strategies shaping tomorrow's air power



**Photo Credit to Military ReachOut



The Future Aerospace Technology Symposium brought together senior defence, aerospace and aviation leaders for a high-level programme examining the technologies and strategies shaping the future of air power.

Held as a closed-door event ahead of the El Alamein International Airshow 2026, the Symposium offered insights into emerging developments across defence, aerospace, artificial intelligence and space, both in Egypt and internationally.

Delivered in partnership with the Egyptian Air Force, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Egyptian Space Agency, the Symposium welcomed 42 government delegations from 42 countries, underscoring its international reach and strategic significance.

The programme featured a keynote address by Air Marshal Amr Sakr, Commander of the Egyptian Air Force, alongside contributions from senior international counterparts from France, Italy, India, Spain, the United States, Pakistan, the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

High-level keynote addresses and interactive panel discussions

explored the future of combat air strategy and operations, with particular emphasis on the growing role of data, artificial intelligence and autonomous systems.

Discussions also examined the increasing convergence of defence and civil aviation, as well as the importance of people, skills, AI literacy and training in preparing the next generation of aerospace professionals.

The Symposium concluded with sessions focused on space, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR), and multi-domain air operations, highlighting the growing importance of integrated capabilities across the modern aerospace and defence landscape.

Combining senior-level strategic discussions with valuable networking opportunities, the Future Aerospace Technology Symposium provided a unique platform for global leaders shaping the future of aerospace and air power, setting the stage for the El Alamein International Airshow 2026.



**Photo Credit to Military ReachOut



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BEYOND THE PLATFORM: BOEING'S NEXT FRONTIER IN AEROSPACE



As aerospace and defence markets across the Middle East and Africa enter a period of sustained growth, the focus is increasingly shifting from platforms alone to the broader capabilities that keep them connected, supported and mission-ready. In the second part of this exclusive interview, Fahad Almheiri, Boeing President, Middle East & North Africa, examines where demand is heading across commercial aviation and defence, from the 737 MAX and 787 Dreamliner to fighters, rotorcraft, autonomous systems and integrated mission capabilities. The discussion also explores Boeing Global Services, industrial partnerships, localization, technology transfer and workforce development, before looking ahead to the opportunities that will shape Boeing's regional strategy over the next five to ten years.

Fahad Almheiri
President
Boeing, Middle East & North Africa

..CONTINUED FROM DAY 1

Boeing's portfolio spans commercial aircraft, military platforms, rotorcraft, autonomous systems, satellites, and advanced digital solutions. Which product lines are currently witnessing the strongest demand in international markets, particularly across the Middle East and Africa, and why?

We continue to see strong demand from both our commercial aviation and defense portfolios, but what is particularly significant is the scale and long-term nature of that demand.

In commercial aviation, Boeing forecasts that the Middle East will require nearly 3,000 new commercial airplanes over the next 20 years, including approximately 1,370 widebodies.

That growth is being driven by fleet modernization, network expansion and the region's position as a global aviation hub connecting Asia, Europe and Africa. Airplanes such as the 737 MAX, 787 Dreamliner and 777X are designed to meet those requirements with greater efficiency, capability and range.

In defense, we see sustained investment in advanced fighters, rotorcraft, surveillance, autonomous systems and integrated mission capabilities. Boeing platforms including the F-15, Apache, Chinook, AWACS and C-17 continue to play important roles with customers across the region.

At the same time, customers are looking beyond the platform itself. They increasingly want integrated capabilities that combine aircraft, digital technologies, training, sustainment and lifecycle support to maximize readiness and operational value.

That is creating significant opportunities across Boeing Global Services, while advances in autonomy, digital aerospace and advanced air mobility are opening the door to the next generation of aerospace capability.

The shift from platforms to capability is the most important change we see in this market.

Boeing has long supported customers beyond aircraft deliveries through training, maintenance, digital services,

and lifecycle sustainment. How is Boeing Global Services helping defence and commercial operators improve fleet readiness, operational efficiency, and mission availability?

Boeing Global Services is responding to a fundamental shift in aerospace: customers are increasingly focused not just on acquiring platforms, but on keeping them performing at their highest level throughout their lifecycle.

Across commercial aviation and defense, that means greater emphasis on readiness, reliability, operational resilience and total lifecycle value.

For defense operators, mission readiness depends on responsive sustainment, efficient maintenance planning, parts availability and highly trained personnel.

Digital technologies are accelerating this shift. Predictive maintenance, data analytics and connected systems help customers anticipate issues, optimize operations and make faster, better-informed decisions.

As platforms become more advanced and operational requirements more demanding, sustainment is becoming a strategic capability. That is where Boeing Global Services is helping customers translate advanced platforms and technologies into sustained readiness, reliability and operational performance, able to meet evolving needs.

Collaboration with local industries, research institutions, and technology partners has become increasingly important in today's aerospace ecosystem. How does Boeing approach industrial partnerships and capability development in the Middle East and Africa?

Boeing views industrial partnerships as long-term strategic relationships that create shared value for customers, local industry and national economies.

Our approach goes beyond technology transfer. We work with governments, industry, universities and research institutions to

strengthen manufacturing capability, develop supply chains and support innovation.

Across the region, Boeing has established partnerships that support manufacturing, sustainment, research, STEM education, sustainability and workforce development aligned with national priorities. These include localization initiatives in Saudi Arabia, advanced manufacturing partnerships in the UAE, and STEM and community programs that have reached hundreds of thousands of participants across the Middle East and Africa.

In Egypt, that commitment goes back to 2017, when we began supporting Cairo University's aeronautical engineering program; it has since grown to include a STEM Centre we opened with Amideast/Egypt in Cairo in 2021 and, most recently, AeroSTAR, a new program launched with Amideast this year to prepare high school students for careers in aerospace, beginning in Egypt this summer.

Over the past ten years, Boeing has invested more than \$3 million in community programs in Egypt, reaching 9,800 participants over the last five years, in support of the country's National Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Developing local talent remains a core priority. Through university partnerships, technical training programs and STEM initiatives, Boeing helps prepare future engineers, technicians and industry leaders.

Over the last five years, more than 393,000 people have participated in Boeing-supported university and community/STEM programs in the Middle East and Africa, while initiatives such as AeroSTAR are helping prepare students for future careers in aviation and aerospace.

As aerospace technologies continue to evolve, collaboration will become even more important in accelerating innovation and

strengthening industrial resilience.

Our goal is to help build sustainable aerospace ecosystems that continue creating economic and technological value for future generations.

Looking ahead, what are Boeing's strategic priorities for the Middle East and African markets over the next five to ten years, and how do you see the region contributing to the company's long-term global vision?

The Middle East and Africa will play an increasingly important role in the future of global aerospace, driven by strong demand fundamentals, economic growth and continued investment in aviation and defense capabilities.

Boeing's priority is to deepen long-term partnerships across commercial aviation, defense and services while helping customers achieve their operational and strategic objectives.

We see significant opportunities to expand industrial partnerships, strengthen local supply chains and support the development of sustainable aerospace ecosystems. Workforce development is central to that: Boeing's 2026 Pilot and Technician Outlook projects the Middle East, including Egypt, will need 236,000 new aviation personnel over the next 20 years, and Africa a further 75,000.

The future of aerospace will increasingly be defined by collaboration across governments, industry, academia and technology partners to upskill local talent and build the aerospace workforce this growth will demand.

Boeing has been a trusted partner in the region for decades, and we remain committed to combining global expertise with long-term local partnerships that create lasting economic, industrial and strategic value. ■

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FROM BALLOONS TO FIGHTER JETS: HOW MRF BUILT AN EMPIRE



K. M. Mammen, CMD, MRF Ltd meeting Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister of India.

In an era where corporate survival is often tied to shifting market trends, MRF's journey from a humble Chennai backyard in 1946 to a USD 3.5 billion global powerhouse stands as a masterclass in industrial vision. What began as a modest toy balloon manufacturing unit has evolved into a sprawling empire, navigating a path that few competitors could have envisioned. By turning an unconventional entry point—the tire retreading rubber industry—into a gateway for automotive manufacturing, MRF laid the groundwork for an enduring legacy of self-reliance.

The Leap to Technological Independence

For decades, the standard playbook for emerging industrial firms involved heavy reliance on foreign technology. MRF followed this route initially, leveraging key international collaborations between 1961 and 1995. However, the company's leadership recognized early on that true global leadership required homegrown intellectual property.

The turning point arrived in 1995. Decades after establishing its first dedicated R&D facility in Chennai in 1963, MRF made the bold decision to sever all foreign technical alliances. It was a calculated risk that paid off. By betting entirely on its internal engineering capabilities, MRF transformed itself into an independent innovator, capable of designing products tailored precisely to both domestic grit and international standards.

An Unrivaled Market Titan

The numbers tell a story of absolute dominance. Since 1989, MRF has maintained an unbroken, three-decade streak as India's number-one tire company. Today, it stands as the nation's largest manufacturer, offering a comprehensive product matrix that spans from nimble two-wheeler tires to massive off-the-road agricultural equipment and aircraft tyres.

This domestic stronghold serves as the launchpad for its aggressive global aspirations:

- **Global Standing:** Ranked 12th among the world's tire manufacturers, MRF exports its products to nearly 90 countries.
- **Brand equity:** According to a recent Brand Finance survey, MRF is recognized as the 3rd strongest tire brand globally.
- **Customer Loyalty:** Its relentless focus on quality is validated by 13 prestigious J.D. Power Awards for customer satisfaction.

This massive commercial machine is anchored by 10 state-of-the-art factories across India and supported by a robust national sales and dealer network. To maintain its edge with

MRF AT A GLANCE	
Global Industry Rank	12th Largest Manufacturer
Global Brand Strength	3rd Strongest Tire Brand
Total Revenue	USD 3.5 Billion
Export Footprint	~90 Countries
India Market Leadership	Continuous since 1989

global automotive giants, the company has even extended its R&D tentacles into the automotive hearts of Asia, establishing specialized facilities in Japan and South Korea.

Defending the Skies: A Vital Military Ally

Perhaps the ultimate testament to MRF's engineering prowess lies not on the highway, but in the skies. For more than 30 years, the company has been a trusted supplier of special-application tires to the Indian Military. In 2007, MRF elevated this partnership by becoming the only Indian manufacturer certified to produce aviation tires for the Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy.

Developing tires capable of handling the extreme thermal and mechanical stresses of military aviation requires elite engineering. Today, MRF's specialized rubber equips an impressive fleet of front-line defense assets:



- **Fighter Jets:** The Sukhoi Su-30 MKI, MiG-29, and the indigenous LCA Tejas.
- **Transport Aircraft:** The heavy-lifting Il-76, An-32, and Dornier.
- **Helicopters:** The Mi-17, Ka-31, Sea King, and Chetak.

This critical defense capability is sustained by a state-of-the-art aircraft tire testing facility at its Chennai R&D headquarters, supplemented by a dedicated outdoor testing ground in for automotive tyres in Tiruchirappalli.



The Crucible of Motorsports and Beyond

To validate its consumer products, MRF treats the global rally circuit as its personal laboratory. The brand doesn't just participate; it dominates. With multiple Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC) titles under its belt and its current standing as the European Rally Champion, MRF uses the grueling conditions of motorsport racing to refine and showcase

its tire compounds to enthusiasts worldwide.

This spirit of enterprise has also driven the group to successfully diversify far beyond the asphalt. Today, the MRF name is synonymous with premium polyurethane coatings (MRF Vapocure Paints), advanced retreading (MRF Pretreads), world-class cricket gear (MRF Sports Goods), and childhood nostalgia through Funschool Toys.



The Road Ahead

From its roots in post-independence India to its current status as a multinational giant, MRF has proven that market leadership is not inherited it is engineered. As the company pushes forward with aggressive capacity expansions and new greenfield projects, its blueprint remains clear: combine deep domestic roots with uncompromising global standards. For a brand that started with toy balloons, the sky is no longer the limit—it is simply the next market to conquer.

GA-ATS Debuts Do228 NXT in Africa at El Alamein Airshow

General Atomics AeroTec Systems (GA-ATS) is placing a major focus on Africa with the debut of its Do228 NXT in the region. The German aircraft manufacturer is highlighting the strategic importance of the African continent for the new aircraft through its participation at the El Alamein International Airshow in Egypt and the upcoming Africa Aerospace & Defence (AAD) Expo in South Africa.

Strategic Focus on High-Potential Market

By focusing on the second-largest continent, GA-ATS underscores the importance of Africa and the Middle East as a large and growing market for the new Do228 NXT turboprop aircraft.

In Africa, the Do228 has a long and proven operational history, with more than 30 operators across nearly 20 countries. The aircraft continues to serve as a vital platform for connecting remote areas, operating from unpaved airfields, conducting STOL operations and performing demanding missions in harsh conditions.

With the new Do228 NXT, this success story continues. GA-ATS has developed a modern and reliable aircraft designed to meet the diverse operational requirements of the African market. The Do228 NXT is capable of performing passenger and cargo transport missions, border surveillance, search and rescue, medical evacuation and reconnaissance operations. This multi-role capability gives operators the key advantage of being able to undertake multiple missions with a single aircraft.

Do228 NXT Makes African Trade Show Debut

The Do228 NXT Demonstrator aircraft is making its African



trade show debut at the El Alamein International Airshow. The aircraft is on static display at the show, marking its first static appearance outside Europe. The Do228 NXT has already generated significant interest among customers, delegations and industry professionals at ILA Berlin 2026 and the Farnborough International Airshow.

Following its appearance at El Alamein, GA-ATS will participate in the Africa Aerospace & Defence (AAD) Expo in South Africa from September 16–20, 2026. The company will be located in Hangar 1 at Booth 1CW6.

The two appearances at major international trade shows in Africa mark the beginning of a broader strategic focus on the continent, where GA-ATS sees significant market opportunities and strong potential for the deployment of the new Do228 NXT.

The aircraft's combination of STOL capability, multi-mission flexibility and suitability for demanding operating environments positions the Do228 NXT as a strong contender for a wide range of African civil and government applications.



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RVV-SDM: Rosoboronexport's New Air-to-Air Missile for the Su-57E

Rosoboronexport (part of the Rostec State Corporation) is launching a global marketing campaign for Russia's new RVV-SDM medium-range air-to-air missile, developed and manufactured by Tactical Missiles Corporation.

The RVV-SDM missile is designed to equip the Su-57E fifth-generation fighter jets produced by UAC, a Rostec subsidiary, and delivered for export. It can also be used on other Russian-made aircraft after their appropriate modifications, and can also be integrated into the armament systems of foreign-made aircraft.

"Rosoboronexport notes a growing interest of the global market in the Su-57E fifth-generation fighter. The aircraft has proved its superiority in actual combat conditions over the most advanced air defense and electronic warfare systems. It has engaged numerous air, ground, and surface targets with Russian air-launched munitions, including the latest RVV-SDM guided missile. The missile has a longer launch range, an increased power-to-weight ratio, higher effectiveness, as well as better aerodynamic performance. Furthermore, it incorporates a passive radar homing channel, providing complete stealth, high guidance accuracy, fire-and-forget effectiveness, and resistance to jamming," said Rosoboronexport Director General Alexander Mikheev.

The RVV-SDM air-to-air missile is designed to engage aircraft, helicopters, cruise missiles, and UAVs around-the-clock and in an electronic countermeasures (ECM) environment. It is equipped with an active/passive radar seeker, an inertial control system and a radio update link.

The missile can engage targets flying at altitudes from 15 m to 25 km, including at speeds up to Mach 3.

Rosoboronexport is offering its partners the latest RVV-MD2 short-range air-to-air missiles, the RVV-SDM medium-range air-to-air missiles, as well as the RVV-BD long-range missile, which has proven its combat capabilities, for equipping the Su-57E fighter.

In addition, the armament system of the Russian 5th generation fighter in the export version includes Kh-38MLE air-to-surface guided missiles, Kh-69 stealth precision-guided air-launched cruise missiles, Kh-58UShKE anti-radar missiles, Kh-35UE anti-ship missiles, as well as KAB-250LG-E guided aerial bombs and UPAB-1500B-E guided glide bombs.

Air-launched weapons for fifth-generation fighters are designed for carriage both in internal weapons bays, which reduces the radar signature, and on external hardpoints. The Su-57E's low radar signature gives it an overwhelming tactical advantage over 4+ and 4++ generation fighters, both in air-to-air combat and when engaging ground and surface targets.

The Su-57E fighter is the only 5th generation fighter in the world that, in a stealth configuration (with internal missile carriage), uses large-sized Kh-69 long-range air-to-surface cruise missiles.

"Rosoboronexport is ready to negotiate contracts with countries friendly to Russia for the supply of both the Su-57E fighter and the air-launched weapons designed for it. In its export activities, the Company prioritizes the needs of the Russian Armed Forces for weapons and military equipment. At the same time, a high production level of Russian defense industry enterprises enables us to guarantee customers the production and delivery times that are on par with, and often exceed those of our global competitors," noted Alexander Mikheev.



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