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**EL ALAMEIN
INTERNATIONAL
AIRSHOW 2026**
**SHOW
DAILY**
**DAY
3**

10 September 2026

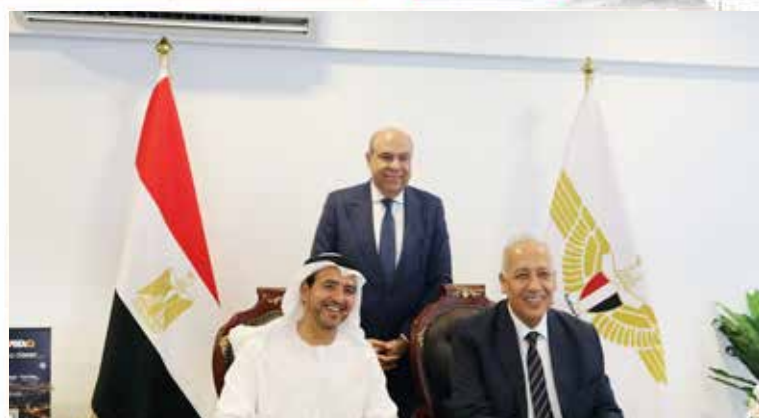
GLOBAL AEROSPACE POWER CONVERGES ON EL ALAMEIN



Day 2 of EIA 2026 saw global aerospace and defence majors showcase advanced platforms and technologies, while high-level delegations engaged in business meetings and partnership discussions. With strong participation from the US, Russia, UAE and other international players, the show is emerging as a key platform for aerospace cooperation and opportunities across Africa.



Egyptian Minister of Civil Aviation H.E. Dr. Sameh El-Hefny, AIRCAIRO Chairman & CEO Hussein Sherif, and CFM International President & CEO Gaël Méheust during the announcement of AIRCAIRO's selection of CFM LEAP-1A engines for its expanding Airbus A320neo fleet at the El Alamein International Airshow 2026.



Egyptian Minister of Civil Aviation H.E. Dr. Sameh El-Hefny witnesses the signing of an MoU between AIRCAIRO Chairman & CEO Hussein Sherif and Abu Dhabi Aviation Group CEO H.E. Mahmoud Al Hammadi, establishing a long-term strategic partnership covering aircraft leasing, MRO, training and fleet solutions at the El Alamein International Airshow 2026.


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EDGE: Engineering the Future of Sovereign Defence



Hamad Al Marar
Managing Director & CEO of EDGE Group

Recent conflicts have accelerated the demand for sovereign defence capabilities, autonomous systems and faster responses to evolving aerial threats. For EDGE Group, the experience has reinforced the importance of controlling technology, software and production while developing integrated solutions across air defence, counter-UAS, electronic warfare and precision weapons. With a growing international footprint and a significant order backlog, EDGE is also expanding its industrial presence beyond the UAE and strengthening partnerships across global markets. In this interview, Hamad Al Marar, Managing Director & CEO of EDGE Group, discusses combat-proven capabilities, industrial scale-up, sovereign technology, European expansion, counter-UAS developments and the Group's ambitions for global growth.

The regional conflict brought drones and missiles into Emirati airspace. What did that validate, and what has it changed in EDGE's development priorities?

Our electronic warfare and sensor systems performed in live engagements, and systems built here eliminated 85% of the drones that came at the UAE, inside a layered network of radars, electro-optics, interceptors and autonomous systems. Self-sufficiency in soft-kill air defence was a target on a slide three years ago.

The second is that owning the code matters more than owning the factory. When a threat signature shifted, our engineers rewrote the software in days. A country that imports its systems submits a request and waits months. That gap is the whole argument for sovereign capability, and we no longer have to make it theoretically.

What changed is sequencing. The final development of our UAE-made air defence system has been accelerated and we intend to have it in operation next year. Beyond it we are building architecture rather than products, a layered network able to engage a threat at several points in flight.

EDGE holds a USD 20.4 billion order backlog. What is the real constraint on converting a book that size into delivery?

A backlog is only an asset if you can build against it, so we industrialised ahead of the orders rather than behind them. In 2025 we completed 68 Industry 4.0 projects across 28 of our facilities, which has doubled output across some of our entities.

The real constraint now sits in the supply chain, and it is a security question before a commercial one. Over 80% of our systems are built inside the UAE across 170 facilities, which gives us a production network with no single point of failure, and we keep pushing localisation down into subsystems. We put AED 596 million into the local supply chain last year. Each of those decisions removes an import dependency from a critical path, and a critical path with a foreign dependency on it is not a schedule we control.

After that the limit is people. Qualified engineers and systems integrators are scarcer than capital in this industry, which is why we treat the talent pipeline as a production input rather than an HR programme.

EDGE Europe is your most significant commitment outside the UAE. Why Paris and Bordeaux, and what makes you competitive inside Europe's own industrial base?

Paris and Bordeaux place us inside the supply chain of the primes we compete against, which is the point. We are not exporting into Europe from Abu Dhabi. We are building there.

Our proposition is tempo. Europe has decided it needs sovereign capability and is finding that its industrial base cannot deliver at the speed its own governments now demand. We have spent six years compressing the distance between a requirement and a delivery, and that is what we are bringing, more than any single product.

It is credible because we have done it with partners rather than



alone. Fincantieri into MAESTRAL, Indra into PULSE NOVA, a controlling stake in CMD, majority stakes in ANAVIA and MILREM. Around 25 joint ventures and partnerships, and in every one we defined the gap being closed. That order matters, because it keeps the roadmap ours.

Europe is also our hardest test. Growing without losing speed is where companies our size usually fail.

Counter-UAS and electronic warfare is your fastest-growing segment. How do you read that market, and the economics behind it?

Start with the arithmetic. A thousand-dollar drone can force a million-dollar response, and no armed force can run that exchange for long. Every serious programme in the segment is an answer to that, ours included. SKYSHIELD takes

the jam or spoof decision before an interceptor is committed, which puts the cheap answer first and keeps the expensive one in reserve.

Sensors come before effectors. You can own the finest missile in the world and it is worth nothing if you cannot see, which is why radar detection and electro-optic confirmation sit at the front of everything we build.

The harder problem is decision speed. In a saturation attack you run out of time to decide long before you run out of interceptors, so prioritisation is where artificial intelligence earns its place, rather than in the marketing.

The market moves next towards mass and coordination. SHADOW 25 and SHADOW 50 are heading for swarm and teamed operation, and DESERT STING and THUNDER keep the effect cost-

effective enough to use at that scale.

Your customers increasingly choose the UAE over traditional suppliers. What are they actually buying, and where is the growth?

They are buying independence. Governments across the Global South want systems more adaptable and cheaper to sustain than the Western offer. Many have also found that what they bought carried conditions on its use. We sell inside international law and end-user certification, and we transfer capability rather than keep control of it.

It is not a discount proposition. Rifles from CARACAL are carried by German and Indian special forces, and Janes places us among the top three precision-guided munition manufacturers in the world.

Hence the order book. USD 2.51 billion with the Kuwait Navy, our largest international contract. EUR 1 billion for three corvettes for Angola. A multi-billion programme under negotiation with Indonesia. Sales in 106 countries since 2020. South East Asia, Africa and Latin America are the core, with industrial operations in Brazil rather than a sales office.

The platform is only the opening chapter. Sustainment, training, local assembly and the ability to upgrade without coming back to us decide whether a relationship runs for twenty years or ends at handover.



IDEX 2027 to Expand Opportunities for Innovation and Defence Cooperation



Saeed Al Mansoori
Advisor – Military & Defense Shows, ADNEC, UAE



With the global defence industry undergoing rapid technological and strategic transformation, IDEX and NAVDEX 2027 are set to further strengthen their role as platforms for innovation, international cooperation and defence industrial partnerships. Following the strong response to the 2025 editions, the upcoming shows will feature expanded exhibition space, new zones for startups and MSMEs, and a greater focus on artificial intelligence, autonomous systems and next-generation technologies. At the Egypt International Airshow, Saeed Al Mansoori, Advisor – Military & Defense Shows, ADNEC, UAE, spoke to Arabian Defence about the vision for IDEX and NAVDEX 2027, the UAE's defence industrial ambitions, and opportunities for international companies.

Building on the success of the 2025 editions of IDEX and NAVDEX, which featured more than 1,565 exhibitors, what can the defence and security industry expect from the 2027 edition, and how will you build on the success of the previous shows?

Every edition of IDEX and NAVDEX becomes bigger and more diverse, with new countries, regions, products and product launches. For 2027, we are adding a new hall at the Marina to meet the strong demand for exhibition space.

We are also creating new zones to help startups and MSMEs position themselves more effectively within the show. These zones will increase their visibility and facilitate engagement with larger exhibitors and potential partners.

Visitors can also expect to see new developments in artificial intelligence and next-generation technologies at IDEX 2027.

Technology and innovation in defence are rapidly evolving with the emergence of AI, autonomous systems and counter-UAS technologies. How will IDEX and NAVDEX showcase the technologies and capabilities shaping defence and maritime security?

Our mission is to support exhibitors by providing the right environment for them to present their latest technologies and continue innovating. Whenever new challenges emerge, the

industry looks for solutions, and IDEX provides a major platform for companies to develop and launch those solutions.

Technology is moving much faster today. In the past, the industry could take two or three years to introduce a new capability. Today, there is no time to wait that long. We are therefore creating opportunities for advanced technologies and autonomous systems to be showcased much more rapidly, helping to narrow the gap between technological development and deployment.

We are also increasing the number of delegations and dedicated visitors. Strong leadership attendance remains one of the key success factors for the show because exhibitors want to engage with decision-makers, while leaders and end users want to see the latest technologies.

Technology is also helping us improve delegation management. We are developing a dedicated mobile application through which delegates can schedule meetings, while escort officers can track attendance at exhibitor meetings. This enables us to identify gaps immediately and ensure that exhibitors receive the right level of engagement.

IDEX and NAVDEX have become an important platform connecting international defence companies with governments and armed forces. What new opportunities

Rosoboronexport Showcases TKB-1167 Counter-UAV System at El Alamein



Rosoboronexport, the state intermediary for Russia's export and import of military products and services and part of the Rostec State Corporation, showcased the TKB-1167 air target engagement system during a press briefing at the El Alamein International Airshow 2026.

The system was developed based on an analysis of air defence system use in modern armed conflicts, with a particular focus on the growing threat posed by unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

The TKB-1167 is designed to detect, identify, acquire, track and engage UAVs operating at low and extremely low altitudes. Its radar, electro-optical system and weapon modules are integrated on a common trailer, providing a compact solution for close-range air defence.

The radar can detect fixed-wing UAVs at ranges of up to 3.5 km and small rotary-wing UAVs at distances of up to 800

metres. Once a target is detected, target designation passes to the electro-optical system, which incorporates thermal imaging and television channels for target detection and tracking.

The television channel can track air targets at ranges of at least 1 km, while the thermal imaging channel provides tracking at ranges of at least 800 metres, enabling the system to operate around the clock.

The TKB-1167 is designed to engage aerial targets travelling at speeds up to 120 km/h. Its engagement zone extends to 400 metres in range and 200 metres in altitude for fixed-wing UAVs, while small multi-rotor UAVs can be engaged at ranges of up to 250 metres and altitudes of up to 150 metres.

Multiple Machine-Gun Configuration

The system uses machine-gun mounts, with each mount equipped with four PK or PKM machine guns. The weapons can use four types of standard rifle cartridges, with each mount carrying up to 2,400 rounds of ammunition.

Up to four machine-gun mounts can be operated from a single command and control post. A complete system comprising up to four modules can therefore provide protection for a fixed facility against massed aerial attacks.

The TKB-1167 reflects Russia's focus on developing close-range counter-UAV capabilities in response to the increasing use of unmanned systems in contemporary conflicts. Its combination of radar detection, electro-optical tracking and multiple machine-gun modules is intended to provide a dedicated layer of protection against low-altitude UAV threats.

for international partnerships, investment and industrial cooperation do you see emerging through the 2027 edition?

The future of the defence industry is about collaboration and working together. We are seeing many alliances focused on upgrading existing systems, developing new capabilities and responding to the changing operational environment.

The UAE defence industry is pursuing the same approach. Companies increasingly approach us to facilitate meetings and identify potential partners, and we work to bring them together.

Through IDEX and NAVDEX, we aim to create opportunities that can influence the development of future defence equipment and capabilities. Ultimately, the objective should not be to prepare for war, but to strengthen deterrence and ensure that conflicts are prevented.

India is also increasing its participation, with a growing industry presence and a dedicated pavilion. Indian companies, including MSMEs and technology-focused firms, are developing capabilities across a wide range of areas. We want to provide them with a platform to gain international exposure, engage with delegations and establish new partnerships.

The UAE is increasingly positioning itself as a global hub for defence innovation and industrial cooperation. What role will IDEX and NAVDEX 2027 play in supporting the UAE's

ambitions to strengthen the domestic defence industry while creating greater opportunities for international companies as technology partners?

The story goes back to 1993, when IDEX was established with the objective of bringing international industry and technology into the UAE. Since then, IDEX has had a significant impact on the development of the country's defence industry by facilitating partnerships and technology transfer.

The industry has grown substantially over the years. What began with a relatively small number of companies has developed into an ecosystem of more than 300 companies participating in the sector.

Today, it is not only about developing complete platforms and systems. It is also about manufacturing components, strengthening supply chains and developing capabilities in areas such as software and engineering.

MSMEs are an important part of this ecosystem, and international companies can play a significant role by partnering with them, transferring technology and helping develop specialised capabilities. This is where IDEX and NAVDEX can continue to serve as important platforms for connecting global industry with the UAE's growing defence industrial base.

MKE Expands into Egypt with Joint Production Plans



Ilhami Keleş
General Manager ,MKE

Turkish defence manufacturer Machinery and Chemical Industry (MKE) is expanding its presence in Egypt with the establishment of a wholly owned subsidiary in Cairo, marking a significant step towards local production and broader regional cooperation.

The new company, Zafer (Victory), has been established under Egyptian law to manage MKE's commercial activities and support joint production programmes in Egypt and neighbouring markets.

Speaking to Anadolu at the El Alamein International Airshow

2026, MKE General Manager İlhami Keleş said Egypt should be viewed not simply as a market, but as a strategic partner for joint business and production, reflecting the strengthening defence and industrial ties between Türkiye and Egypt.

MKE has already signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Egypt's Ministry of Military Production covering cooperation in the joint production of energetic materials, explosives and ammunition equipment. The company is also exploring opportunities to combine Egyptian industrial capabilities with MKE technologies and systems.

Egypt has shown interest in MKE's TOLGA counter-UAV system, with Keleş confirming that an initial sale has been completed. The company sees the Egyptian market as a potential base for expanding its activities across Africa and the Gulf region.

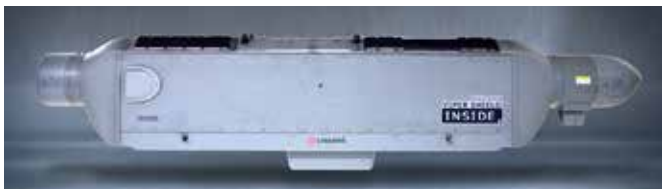
MKE is also pursuing joint production opportunities involving military vehicles, with plans to integrate Egyptian manufacturing capabilities with its turret and command-and-control systems, as well as hard-kill and soft-kill protection solutions.

According to Keleş, technology transfer and localisation are increasingly important to MKE's international strategy, with the company pursuing similar cooperation models in markets including Canada, the US, Malaysia and Indonesia.

The establishment of Zafer is expected to provide MKE with a dedicated platform for developing local partnerships, managing commercial activities and supporting future joint production programmes. The company aims to use Egypt as a strategic hub for serving markets across Africa and the Gulf.

MKE's expansion comes as defence industries in the region increasingly seek greater localisation, technology transfer and indigenous production capabilities, creating opportunities for long-term industrial partnerships beyond conventional equipment sales. ■

L3Harris Completes Production of First F-16 Viper Shield Electronic Warfare Systems



L3Harris Technologies (NYSE: LHX) has completed production of the first 35 Viper Shield electronic warfare and countermeasure systems for the global F-16 fleet.

Viper Shield detects, identifies and counters electronic threats by providing digital armor around the aircraft. The technology can support the pilot as an integrated internal system or as an external pod. L3Harris also assembled its first pod leveraging production systems.

Viper Shield is the only F-16 electronic warfare system currently in production with orders from eight allied nations. L3Harris is ramping up to full-rate production for the 233 systems currently

on order. Additional partner nations that select Viper Shield will benefit from an active production line with quality assurance and a supply chain capable of meeting the demands of large-scale manufacturing.

"The \$1 billion shared investment by countries operating F-16s means the U.S. Air Force and National Guard could benefit from joining the program," said Chris Aebli, President, Communications & Spectrum Dominance, L3Harris. "The foreign investment is funding development, lab testing, flight testing and current production of Viper Shield systems, which presents the United States with a savings opportunity to avoid upfront costs."

Viper Shield is designed for the Block 70/72 aircraft, fully interoperable with the advanced APG-83 Active Electronically Scanned Array radar and compatible with all previous F-16 blocks. The all-digital software-defined architecture uses commercial-off-the-shelf technology to provide a small form factor, reduced weight and easier future upgrades. ■

AIRCAIRO Selects CFM LEAP-1A Engines for Expanding A320neo Fleet



El Alamein International Airshow, Egypt, September 2026 – In the presence of Egyptian Minister of Civil Aviation Pilot Sameh El Hefni, AIRCAIRO, Egypt's national airline, has selected CFM LEAP-1A engines to power its growing Airbus A320neo fleet.

The agreement includes CFM International's LEAP-1A engines for 15 aircraft, options for an additional 15 aircraft, and spare engines, bringing the total potential requirement to more than 60 LEAP-1A engines.

"This milestone with CFM International marks a new chapter in our growth strategy," said Hussein Sherif, Chairman & CEO of AIRCAIRO. "The LEAP-1A engine's outstanding performance and reliability are essential for our fleet modernisation efforts,

enabling us to offer our passengers a best-in-class travel experience while further improving our operational efficiency."

AIRCAIRO has relied on CFM engines since 2005 and currently operates 20 A320neo aircraft powered by LEAP-1A engines, alongside 12 A320ceo aircraft powered by CFM56 engines.

"This agreement with AIRCAIRO reinforces the strong partnership between our companies," said Gaël Méheust, President & CEO of CFM International. "We are proud of AIRCAIRO's continued confidence in CFM and remain fully committed to delivering the performance and support they expect from us."

With more than 10,000 LEAP engines delivered to date, CFM LEAP engines have experienced the fastest ramp-up in commercial aviation history. CFM continues to upgrade the LEAP fleet with a high-pressure turbine (HPT) durability kit to extend time on wing and a reverse bleed system (RBS) to reduce airline maintenance requirements.

The company remains focused on delivering high engine availability through strong MRO performance and competitive cost of ownership, supported by the benefits of aftermarket competition through its open MRO ecosystem.

Drone Tech: From Aerial Data to Engineering Intelligence



As unmanned aerial systems continue to transform aviation and industry, Drone Tech is emerging as an Egyptian technology and engineering company focused on turning drone capabilities into practical engineering intelligence.

Established to serve the rapidly growing demand for advanced aerial data and geospatial technologies, Drone Tech integrates UAV platforms, high-precision sensors, photogrammetry, LiDAR, thermal and multispectral imaging, GIS, 3D modelling and Digital Twin technologies into complete solutions for demanding industrial and engineering applications.

The company's capabilities include high-accuracy aerial mapping, 2D and 3D surveying, LiDAR and point-cloud generation, volumetric calculations, thermal inspections, solar and wind-turbine inspection, multispectral analysis, industrial

asset inspection and specialized solutions for challenging or confined environments.

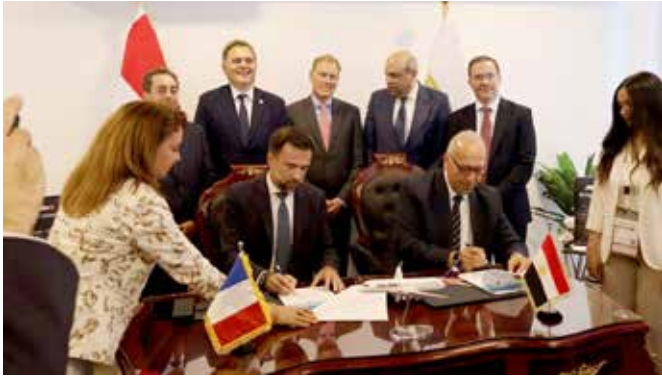
A key area of Drone Tech's vision is the development of Digital Twins, where aerial data is transformed into accurate digital representations of physical assets and environments. By connecting UAV technology with GIS, engineering data and advanced visualization, organizations can monitor assets, identify changes and make faster, better-informed decisions.

Drone Tech provides a comprehensive range of services across various sectors, including, but not limited to, Construction, Oil & Gas, Mining, Agriculture, Irrigation, Infrastructure, Energy, and Utilities.

Beyond its commercial activities, Drone Tech actively supports and participates in research and development (R&D) initiatives in unmanned technologies, in collaboration with educational and research institutions across Egypt. Through these efforts, Drone Tech contributes to technological innovation and the advancement of solutions aligned with Egypt's future vision.

As Egypt strengthens its position as a regional hub for aviation, aerospace and advanced technologies, Drone Tech is committed to contributing to this transformation by bringing together aviation technology, geospatial, intelligence and digital engineering.

AIRCAIRO Orders 15 Airbus A320neo Aircraft to Support Fleet Expansion



AIRCAIRO, Egypt's growing national airline, has signed a firm order for 15 Airbus A320neo aircraft at the El Alamein International Airshow 2026. The agreement marks an important milestone in the airline's growth strategy as it introduces direct aircraft ownership alongside its leased Airbus fleet.

Having grown rapidly from seven aircraft five years ago to a fleet of more than 45 aircraft today, AIRCAIRO is building on this momentum with plans to grow its fleet to more than 130 aircraft by 2034. The firm order will provide the airline with the capacity, flexibility and operational efficiency needed to expand connectivity across its domestic, regional and international networks.

Hussein Sherif, Chairman & CEO, AIRCAIRO, said: "This agreement represents a natural next step in AIRCAIRO's growth. Combining owned aircraft with our leased fleet gives us greater operational flexibility and financial efficiency as we scale up. The A320neo will provide the capacity needed to expand our network, serve the growing demand for travel to and from Egypt, and support the country's aviation and tourism sectors in close partnership with Airbus."

"We are delighted that this first direct acquisition from AIRCAIRO reaffirms the airline's confidence in the A320neo to power its next phase of growth," said Benoît de Saint-Exupéry, Airbus EVP Sales of the Commercial Aircraft business. "The A320neo provides AIRCAIRO with the efficiency and flexibility to scale up its network. This commitment highlights the strength of our partnership and AIRCAIRO's confidence in the A320neo to expand connectivity between Egypt and key international destinations."

The A320 Family is the world's most popular single-aisle aircraft family, with more than 20,200 orders globally. The A320neo, the largest member of the family, offers enhanced range and performance. The family delivers at least 20% fuel savings and CO₂ reduction compared with previous-generation single-aisle aircraft, while maximising passenger comfort with one of the widest single-aisle cabins in the sky.

AIRCAIRO and Abu Dhabi Aviation Group Forge Strategic Aviation Partnership



The International Airshow and Space Exhibition at El Alamein witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between AIRCAIRO and Abu Dhabi Aviation Group (ADA), marking the launch of a long-term strategic partnership aimed at expanding capabilities, supporting growth and strengthening operational and commercial cooperation between the two organisations.

The agreement, signed in the presence of the Egyptian Minister of Civil Aviation, brings together the complementary expertise and capabilities of the two aviation organisations. The MoU was signed on behalf of Abu Dhabi Aviation Group by H.E. Mahmoud Al Hammadi, Group Chief Executive Officer, and on behalf of AIRCAIRO by Mr. Hussein Sherif, Chairman &

CEO, who is leading the airline's efforts to strengthen strategic partnerships and support its ambitious expansion plans.

The MoU provides a framework for cooperation across key areas of the aviation ecosystem, including aircraft leasing and fleet solutions, Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO), training and the enhancement of operational capabilities.

It also establishes a framework for the joint development of new strategic projects and opportunities across the aviation sector in Egypt and regional markets. The partnership is expected to create new avenues for sustainable growth while strengthening the role of both organisations within the regional aviation ecosystem.

The high-level representation from both sides underscores the strategic importance of the MoU and the opportunities it presents for building multi-dimensional cooperation among specialised organisations operating across different segments of the aviation ecosystem.

The partnership is expected to strengthen integration across the operational, technical and commercial capabilities of both organisations, supporting AIRCAIRO's expansion and enhancing its ability to respond to evolving market requirements. It will also create opportunities for the development of new joint projects in Egypt and across the region.



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ASELSAN Expands Poland Partnership with New Export Contract



ASELSAN, Türkiye's leading defence company and one of Europe's largest defence companies by market capitalisation, has signed a new export contract with

Polish company AMZ Kutno at MSPO 2026 for the delivery of an additional 24 sets of ARSUS Reconnaissance and Surveillance Systems.

The contract builds on the Framework Agreement signed between ASELSAN and AMZ Kutno in 2024 for the Polish Armed Forces. Deliveries under the latest agreement are planned between 2028 and 2029, complementing deliveries scheduled through 2035 under the existing Framework Agreement.

The agreement further strengthens ASELSAN's long-term presence in Poland, where the company is expanding its engagement through advanced technologies, its local office, ongoing programmes and partnerships with Polish industry.

Beyond the latest agreement, ASELSAN is showcasing an extensive portfolio at MSPO 2026 covering air defence, electronic warfare, counter-UAV systems, UAV payloads, and naval and underwater technologies, reflecting the expanding scope of its cooperation with Poland.

World Defense Show Renews Strategic Partnership with SAMI for 2028



World Defense Show (WDS), founded by the General Authority for Military Industries (GAMI), has announced the renewal of its strategic partnership with Saudi Arabian Military Industries (SAMI), confirming that the Kingdom's National Defense and Security Champion will continue as National Strategic Partner for the fourth edition of World Defense Show, taking place in Riyadh from 16–20 January 2028.

The renewed partnership reflects World Defense Show's ongoing commitment to building long-term relationships with leading national and international organisations that support the continued development of Saudi Arabia's defence industry and strengthen industrial collaboration, in line with Saudi Vision 2030's goal of localising more than 50% of military spending by 2030.

Since its launch, World Defense Show has established itself as a global platform connecting governments, defence companies, investors, innovators and industry leaders, while showcasing Saudi Arabia's growing role as a hub for international defence cooperation and industrial development. Through its longstanding partnership with SAMI, World Defense Show continues to expand opportunities for collaboration, knowledge

exchange and long-term sector growth.

As National Strategic Partner, SAMI will continue supporting World Defense Show's mission to convene the global defence ecosystem while reinforcing the Kingdom's ambitions to develop a competitive and sustainable defence industry.

The partnership builds on the success of World Defense Show's record-breaking 2026 edition, which welcomed more than 137,000 trade visitors, 1,486 exhibitors from 89 countries, and 513 official delegations representing 121 nations, further reinforcing the show's position as one of the world's leading defence events.

Andrew Pearcey, CEO of World Defense Show, said:

"SAMI has been an integral partner since the very beginning of World Defense Show, and we are delighted to continue that journey together as we prepare for the 2028 edition. Strategic partnerships with national champions such as SAMI play an important role in strengthening World Defense Show as a global platform for collaboration, innovation and industrial engagement. Together, we look forward to creating new opportunities that support Saudi Arabia's growing defence ecosystem and its long-term ambitions under Vision 2030."

Saud AlAbdullatif, Acting Chief Communication & Support Services Officer at Saudi Arabian Military Industries (SAMI), said:

"Our continued partnership with World Defense Show reflects SAMI's commitment to supporting Saudi Arabia's defence industry ambitions and strengthening the Kingdom's position within the global defence ecosystem. Together, we will continue creating opportunities for collaboration, innovation and industrial capability development while supporting the objectives of Vision 2030."

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MBDA to Equip Spanish Navy with SIMBAD RC Systems



MBDA has signed a framework agreement with the Spanish Navy for the supply of three SIMBAD RC anti-missile systems, providing a capability that the Navy does not currently possess.

The framework agreement represents a significant advancement for the Spanish Navy by providing a new operational capability, while also marking an important milestone in MBDA's development in Spain.

Eric Béranger, CEO of MBDA, said: "This first direct agreement with the Spanish Navy is a historic milestone for MBDA. It demonstrates our growing footprint and long-term commitment

to Spain. By delivering critical defence capabilities, we are enhancing fleet security and building a strategic partnership based on innovation and cooperation with the Spanish defence industry."

The systems will be integrated into active naval units as part of the Ministry of Defence and Spanish Navy's plan to strengthen the fleet's self-defence capabilities against missile and aerial threats. The incorporation of SIMBAD RC systems will enhance the Navy's operational capacity by improving vessel protection.

SIMBAD-RC is an anti-missile and anti-aircraft self-defence system based on the MISTRAL missile. The system is capable of providing vessels with primary self-defence capabilities or acting as a complementary layer to their main defence systems.

The system offers effective defence capabilities against various types of threats, including anti-ship missiles, sea-skimming missiles, aircraft and drones. It can be controlled by a single operator, simplifying operation and providing 24/7 operational capability in all weather conditions.

With this agreement, MBDA is strengthening its presence in Spain and reaffirming its commitment to the development of national defence capabilities. The company aims to consolidate this growth in the coming years by pursuing new cooperation opportunities with the Armed Forces and the national defence industry. ■

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Northrop Grumman Opens Propulsion Innovation Center in Maryland



Northrop Grumman (NYSE: NOC) has opened its new Propulsion Innovation Center, a 57,000-square-foot facility in Elkton, Maryland, housing 250 engineers working on advanced propulsion technologies for US and allied defence programmes.

The new facility expands Northrop Grumman's solid rocket

motor (SRM) capacity across its propulsion manufacturing network while creating additional opportunities for highly skilled engineering and manufacturing jobs in Maryland.

The investment strengthens the company's ability to meet growing demand for tactical missile and hypersonic propulsion technologies, while supporting Maryland's advanced manufacturing sector.

Maryland Governor Wes Moore joined Northrop Grumman leaders, employees, local officials and industry partners for a ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the opening of the Propulsion Innovation Center. The facility represents an investment not only in national security capabilities, but also in Maryland's highly skilled workforce.

The new centre further strengthens Northrop Grumman's propulsion technology and manufacturing capabilities, supporting the development and production of advanced systems for the US and allied defence sectors. ■

UAE Pavilion Showcases Growing Defence and Aerospace Capabilities



One of the standout attractions at this year's El Alamein International Airshow is the UAE National Pavilion, which brings together leading Emirati companies across defence, aerospace, aviation, maintenance and advanced technology. With an exhibition space of 871 square metres, the pavilion reflects the remarkable growth of the UAE's industrial base and its expanding international presence.

Running from 8 to 10 September at El Alamein International Airport in Egypt's Matrouh Governorate, the airshow has rapidly developed into an important regional meeting point for the aerospace, defence and space industries.

What sets the UAE Pavilion apart is not only the technologies on display, but also the opportunities the airshow offers for international engagement. Egypt's position as a bridge between the Middle East and Africa makes El Alamein a natural meeting point for governments, armed forces and industry players from both regions.

EDGE Group is showcasing its capabilities across autonomous systems, uncrewed aviation and precision defence technologies. Key systems on display include the SHADOW 25 and SHADOW 50 loitering munitions, HT-100 unmanned helicopter,

SKYKNIGHT air defence missile system and DESERT STING precision-guided glide weapon. Together, they demonstrate EDGE's growing portfolio of solutions designed to address evolving operational requirements across multiple domains.

For Generation 5 Holding, the pavilion serves not only as a showroom but as a platform for engagement with government and military entities, specialised companies and operators. The company is exploring opportunities in development, manufacturing, technical integration and research, reflecting the UAE's broader ambition to translate regional visibility into long-term international partnerships.

AD Aviation Group is presenting the capabilities of four companies under its umbrella – Abu Dhabi Aviation, GAL, AMMROC and Maximus Air – highlighting expertise across aircraft representation, maintenance, fleet support and strategic airlift.

AMMROC is showcasing the C-130 Hercules, highlighting its role as a Lockheed Martin-approved service centre for the platform across the Middle East and North Africa. The capability underlines the UAE's growing position as a regional maintenance and overhaul hub.

Maximus Air is displaying a model of its Antonov AN-124-100, a strategic heavy-lift aircraft capable of carrying up to 120 tonnes of cargo. The platform highlights the UAE's capabilities in moving complex and time-critical cargo for government and commercial customers worldwide.

Together, the participating companies are using El Alamein to strengthen their global presence, explore new markets and build partnerships across Africa and the Middle East. The UAE National Pavilion therefore serves as both a showcase of national capabilities and a platform for developing long-term industrial and commercial relationships. ■

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Deutsche Aircraft Achieves D328eco Landing Gear Flight Milestone



Deutsche Aircraft has reached a major milestone in its landing gear certification programme with the successful completion of Low-Speed Taxi (LST) and High-Speed Taxi (HST) testing, followed by the initial phase of flight testing for the D328eco®.

A legacy D328® aircraft, operating as a dedicated flying testbed, has successfully completed its first five development flights, achieving all planned test objectives. Since flight testing

began on 5 August 2026, the aircraft has accumulated more than 15 hours of test time with the new landing gear system, covering both flight and ground-testing activities.

The achievement marks a significant step in the maturation and certification preparation of the next-generation D328eco.

"The successful completion of the ground and taxi test campaign, together with the first flights of our landing gear testbed, is an important achievement," said Nico Neumann, CEO of Deutsche Aircraft. "The results provide strong validation of the landing gear system and enable us to move into the next phase of flight testing as we continue the certification process. Bringing this critical system under our direct control allows us to deliver greater reliability, resilience and long-term support for our operators."

Beyond advancing the D328eco certification programme, the milestone demonstrates Deutsche Aircraft's commitment to strengthening long-term product support and operational readiness for regional aircraft operators worldwide.

Bridge Exhibitions Expands Global Footprint Across High-Growth Markets



Bridge Exhibitions is building a growing international portfolio across some of the world's most dynamic exhibition markets, with projects across Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt, Malaysia, Singapore, Brazil and South Africa.

Created by Arabian World Events and Orchestra Media, Bridge provides event management, international sales, marketing and market development services, helping exhibition organisers enter new markets, attract exhibitors and national pavilions, strengthen industry engagement and grow international participation.

Bridge is active across defence and aerospace, security and cyber, technology and artificial intelligence, working with

leading international events including EDEX, LIMA, LAAD, GISEC and IDEX, with projects extending through 2028.

Its team brings decades of combined experience across event management, international sales, marketing, national pavilion development and market expansion, supported by longstanding relationships across government, industry and the global exhibitions sector.

Keith Barthelot, Sales Director of Bridge Exhibitions, said:

"Bridge is built around a simple principle: exhibitions grow by reaching new companies, countries and markets.

"We have strong roots in defence and aerospace, and we are applying that experience across security, cyber, technology and AI, while expanding our footprint throughout the Middle East, Asia-Pacific, the Americas, Europe and Africa.

"Our ambition is to build a genuinely global exhibitions business, connecting leading events with new markets, new exhibitors and new commercial opportunities around the world."

Bridge Exhibitions continues to expand its international team, strategic partnerships and event portfolio while strengthening its presence across key global markets.

Bridge Exhibitions is an international event management, sales, marketing and market development company created by Arabian World Events and Orchestra Media.

Its multilingual team works across the Middle East, Asia-Pacific, the Americas, Europe and Africa, helping exhibition organisers expand internationally, develop new markets, increase exhibitor and pavilion participation, and build stronger connections with government, industry and commercial partners worldwide.



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