



SHOW BUSINESS

INDEX/NAVDEX SHOW DAILY

DAY
4

DISTRIBUTION PARTNER
 Collins Aerospace

DUO DEFENCE SHOWS TAKE TOP SPOT

ON TOP OF THE WORLD!

“**W**hichever way we measure the size and impact of IDEX and NAVDEX – from exhibitor, country or visitor numbers, the value of contracts signed, or the direct economic impact of the show – we can truly say it is the number one defence exhibition in the world.”

So said Humaid Matar Al Dhaheri, managing director and group CEO of event organiser ADNEC Group.

A key success factor for the show, which is celebrating its 30th year and is held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, president of the UAE, is the partnership between all parties, with the UAE Ministry of Defence and other strategic players at the forefront of the effort.

“We work as a team,” said Al Dhaheri. “We listen to our exhibitors, to visitor feedback, and to our partners. We have raised the bar in 2023 and we will do so again in 2025.”

The influx of visitors has pleased ADNEC and, after four



WE'RE NO 1!
ADNEC Group CEO Humaid Matar Al Dhaheri celebrates the success

days, it believes it will exceed its target of 130,000 over the duration of the show.

The success of IDEX and NAVDEX reflects the role of the UAE as a trusted ally in the region when it comes to the defence sector, said Al Dhaheri. It also demonstrates the global position of Abu Dhabi as a leader in organising and hosting large-scale events.

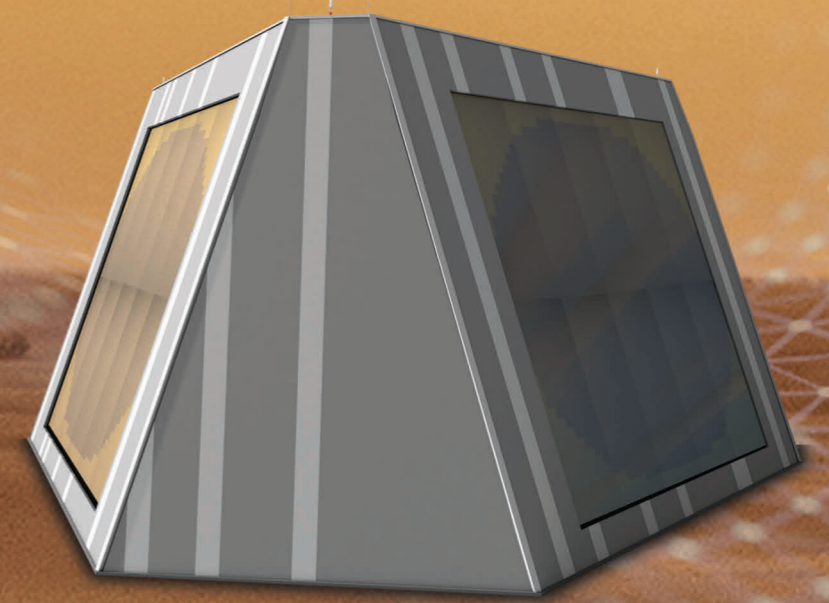
“The local defence and related industrial base developed in this country shows how the UAE has become an important player on the world stage,” he added. “IDEX and NAVDEX support this growth and provide a showcase for this vibrant sector.”

The expansion of NAVDEX is a significant move, said Al Dhaheri. With 10,000sqm of

space, adding to the show’s overall 165,000sqm footprint, it is being held in the new ADNEC Marina Hall, the largest exhibition space of its kind in the Middle East.

“This year, the event is expected to bring around AED 900 million (\$245 million) of direct and indirect economic impact to the local economy,” concluded Al Dhaheri. ▲

PARTNERING FOR SECURITY
AND PROSPERITY.



LOCKHEED MARTIN 

Information is the best defence

Situational awareness that's out of this world.

Visit us at Stand 03-C10



Copyright © 2023 BAE Systems. All rights reserved. BAE SYSTEMS is a registered trademark of BAE Systems plc.



Visit our website to find out more

BAE SYSTEMS

Training first for F-16 pilots in the Middle East



F-16 training capabilities have expanded with the delivery of the first deployable mission trainer (DMT) from Lockheed Martin to the Middle East.

The DMT provides on-demand training in a self-contained environment, enabling the pilots to deploy considerable training capabilities, including the ability to be networked for team training exercises. “The

sustained partnership between Lockheed Martin and international customers continues to shape technological advances in the training industry,” said Lockheed Martin’s Middle East chief executive General John ‘Mick’ Nicholson.

“This DMT will help enhance pilot proficiency, improve mission readiness, and create scope for further interoperability among the

many nations that operate the F-16 in the Middle East region.”

The new trainer can be set up in a small footprint providing its own power, lighting, environmental control and training capabilities. It is designed for transport by Lockheed Martin’s C-130 and can seamlessly connect to the network supporting air combat training centres at home base or while deployed.

SAMP/T NG special from Eurosam

The international depth of the IDEX show has been highlighted by the number of countries showing interest in Eurosam’s new generation of medium-range air defence systems.

Earlier this month, the Franco-Italian consortium started production of the SAMP/T NG system for the French Air Force and the Italian Army.

The company is also now preparing another SAMP/T NG production contract for the Italian Air Force. And already, several MENA region countries are keen to know more.

“In this region there are well identified threats, which our systems have been designed to address,” said Eurosam managing director, Eva Bruxmeier. “We are discussing possibilities with several countries here.”

Eurosam is also ready to establish industrial activity anywhere in the region. Countries such as Saudi Arabia, under its ‘Vision 2030’ programme, make it manda-



Discussing possibilities with several MENA countries – Eurosam managing director, Eva Bruxmeier

tory to localise the production of goods. “We can propose that to our potential customers,” emphasised Bruxmeier.

Egypt is reportedly already in talks to purchase the system. “We have ramped up production lines for the new system and expect to start delivery to the French and Italian forces by the end of 2025,” Bruxmeier said. “The system will be available for global customers from 2026.”

The next-generation SAMP/T

NG air defence system can detect and intercept targets more than 600km away, including ballistic missiles.

The SAMP/T NG battery can have up to six launchers, capable of carrying and firing up to eight Aster missiles each.

The system will incorporate two new-generation radar stations – Italy will receive the Leonardo radar Kronos Grand mobile high power, while the French Air Force will get Thales’ Ground Fire 300.

▲ NEWS IN BRIEF

New smart AR5

Tekever announced at IDEX that it has expanded the capabilities of its AR5 UAV by integrating the GAMASAR synthetic aperture radar (SAR), which the company says is the lightest available, and the only SAR payload capable of being carried by a UAS of the AR5’s size. The game-changing SAR payload enables unprecedented detection and identification for the most demanding marine and land missions, and is now available on both the AR5 and AR3 systems.

Hunter loitering munitions for UAE

Edge has signed a AED 1.1 billion (\$299m) deal to deliver Hunter 2-S (swarming), Hunter 5 and Hunter 10 loitering munitions to the UAE Armed Forces. The Hunter 2-S is an autonomous uncrewed aerial vehicle that features advanced artificial intelligence to perform coordinated missions in a swarm.



Visit our editorial office Organisers Conference Room A (in between halls 4 & 5) or email ella@aerocomm.aero

Arabian Aerospace Show Business is published by Times Aerospace Publishing Ltd

Director of content Alan Peaford

Editor Steve Knight

Editorial Alan Dron, Jon Lake, Jay Menon, Marcelle Nethersole, Mark Pilling, Alan Warnes

Contributors Sam Basch; Paul Derby; Chuck Grieve; Steve Nichols

Imagery Ian Billingham, Sean McEwan, Jeff Holmes, Jim Robbins

Design/production Amelia Clark

Publisher Mark Brown

mark.brown@timesaerospace.aero

Marketing & circulation

clare.brown@timesaerospace.aero

Display advertising

grant.lee@timesaerospace.aero

Distribution

ethan.cobbing@timesaerospace.aero

Printed by

United Printing & Publishing

Advertising TIMES

Aerospace Publishing Ltd
3-4 Rumsey House, Locks Hill,
Rochford, Essex SS4 1BB, UK
+44 (0) 1702 53 0000

Content Aerocomm Limited,

Norths, Rectory Road, Orsett,
Essex RM16 3JU, UK
+44 (0) 208 133 3420

Published by



KEEP IN TOUCH

Twitter

@TimesAerospace

YouTube

Times Aerospace TV



Strategic Partner



Principal Partner



Diamond Sponsor



Gold Sponsor



Silver Sponsor



Organised by



In association with



Co-located with





Take a closer look at our fleet at NAVDEX 2023



STREIT Marine, the marine division of STREIT Group, will participate in NAVDEX 2023, a four-day event taking place in Abu Dhabi from February 20-24.

It would be our pleasure to have you visit our berth at NAVDEX. There will be a number of novel armored & semi-armored tactical task vessels on display at STREIT Marine. Among them are LC-12, a 12-meter aluminum boat capable of patrolling and intervening; Airboat AB-950, which offers access to shallow draft areas that are usually inaccessible to standard boats; PB 1040, our vessel designed for inshore sea patrols that require speed and responsive handling; Patrol Boat 850, Our Patrol Boat 850 is specially designed to respond and perform rapidly.



AB-850 MARK II



CB-12

About Streit Marine

STREIT Marine, the marine division of STREIT Group, is a leading armored boats manufacturer in the UAE, catering to the needs of militaries, special naval forces, NGOs, coastguards, and security companies around the globe. Since its inception in 2018, STREIT Marine boats are being used for a wide range of mission profiles: from fast patrol crafts that provide maximum mission range and crew comfort to anti-poaching and anti-piracy missions. There are many options available including deck mounting of crew-served weapons systems, tactical boarding ladders, FLIR cameras; recording, and wireless headset communication systems, our boats offer tactical configurations that are designed to meet each client's unique mission requirements.

For further information, please contact:

Email: sales@armored-cars.com

Phone: +971 4 886 2900

For latest updates, please visit our website www.streitmarine.ae

نافدكس NAVDEX

NAVDEX BERTH# OW



STREIT
MARINE

WIDE RANGE OF PATROL & ASSAULT CRAFT



Daily news updates on timesaerospace.aero

C-390 MILLENNIUM

UNBEATABLE COMBINATION

RAPID RECONFIGURATION AND THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY.

Delivering paratroops, transporting cargo, conducting air-to-air refuelling, or delivering critical medical care, the C-390 Millennium has class-leading multi-role capabilities and features. This new generation aircraft exploits latest technologies and innovations. These include advanced fly-by-wire and digital integrated avionics. This not only makes the C-390 Millennium easier to fly, it also reduces the workload on the crew. Already proven in service with the Brazilian Air Force, the C-390 has also been selected by the Portuguese and Hungarian Air Forces to meet their current and future mission demands. The C-390 is setting a new benchmark in reliability, efficiency and mission capability.

#C390UnbeatableCombination
embraerds.com



EMBRAER CHALLENGE. CREATE. OUTPERFORM.

Frequentis stays flexible

Frequentis, the Austrian specialist in global secure communications systems, is showcasing its deployable solutions here at IDEX, in addition to its capabilities in search-and-rescue missions.

Customers are increasingly asking for deployable solutions, such as remote-control towers, according to Josef Kutsch, managing director of Frequentis Middle East.

“Flexibility is key. We know mission profiles can change in a couple of hours, so we have to ensure our customers have the flexibility with our deployable solutions – comms on the move as we call it – which are very ruggedised,” he explained.

“We have signed a couple of large undisclosed contracts with countries in the Middle East, and we are building a good foundation to grow,” added Kutsch, who is based in Abu Dhabi. “We see the defence sector as a strong market and we want to be close to our customers.

“Our main concept has always been the interoperability [of our solutions]. So, no matter what legacy systems are deployed with our customer, we can make sure that we integrate it and this sets us apart from any competition.

“This has been our key to success in the region. We continue to add more capabilities to integrate more systems in the future.”



▲ Flexibility is key for customers said Josef Kutsch, managing director of Frequentis Middle East

Collins signs up for new Saudi mission

Collins and Saudi Arabia’s SRB Aerial Systems signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) at IDEX to support research, development, and execution of uncrewed aerial systems (UAS) and robotics in the kingdom.

Collins will be providing its extensive integration experience to the Saudi tactical UAS developer.

Collins’ mission systems hardware and software, combined with

its radio communication, imaging and sensor development expertise, will be key assets to develop UAS sovereign capabilities in the country.

SRB has a goal of providing 100% locally owned and manufactured UAS to the country.

“This partnership is a key step in supporting the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia’s ‘vision 2030’ to bring locally owned and manufactured

products to KSA,” said Colin Mahoney, Collins’ president customer & account management.

“Our products will be included on locally produced UAS, expanding our shared market and supporting the missions of today and the future.”

Collins will be working with SRB towards a flight trial in the second quarter of this year, including engineering and product integration.



SHAKE ON IT
SRB’s Maj Gen (ret) Ahmed Al-Jehan (left), and Othman Alzouman with Colin Mahoney of Collins at the show

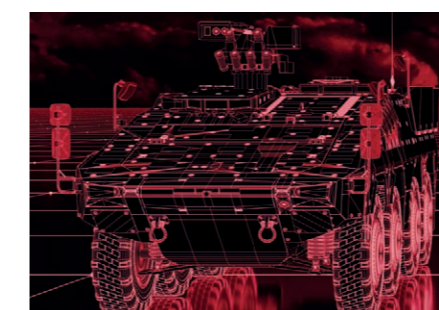
▲ NEWS IN BRIEF

French collaborate in research boost

France’s Naval Group and Abu Dhabi’s Khalifa University of Science and Technology have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to collaborate on innovative research fields in the UAE.

The agreement was signed by François-Régis Boulvert, R&D cooperation & partnerships director at Naval Group, together with the university’s president, Professor Sir John O’Reilly, and executive vice-president, Dr Arif Sultan Al Hammadi.

The project will contribute to the local industrialisation of additive manufacturing processes on strategic materials, leading to the improvement of defence materials operational availability.



See us on stand 03-A27



SPAFAX
Military Mirror Technology
www.spafaxmirrors.com



SAMI

We empower

people and give them a clean
run at the engine of opportunity



Leading in detection, identification and neutralization of explosive hazards



Global Clearance Solutions (GCS) is the world leading provider specialized in the detection and removal of landmines, improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and unexploded ordnance (UXO).

We develop high quality multi-purpose platforms and attachments; tailored to meet our clients` requirements.

Visit us at our booth to discuss your specific requirements.



Hall 10 Booth B07

Daily news updates on timesaerospace.aero

Double boost for UAE firms

A new agreement between two of the UAE's major aerospace providers will allow both organisations to expand their service offerings. Under a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed at IDEX yesterday, satellite solu-

tions company, Yahsat, and military aircraft MRO specialist, GAL-AMMROC, will leverage their respective skills to widen their portfolios for the UAE and regional market.

The deal, signed by Mahmood Al

Hameli, GAL-AMMROC's CEO, and Eisa Al Shamsi, general manager at Yahsat Government Solutions, will also mark a significant step in localising various engineering services.

The agreement will allow GAL-AMMROC to build on Yahsat's ICT systems integration expertise across airborne platforms around beyond-line-of-sight and other satellite-enabled applications.

It will cut costs and risk for clients, said Al Shamsi (pictured left): "If I want to install a system on an aircraft, that means down-time for the user and there's a certain risk of integration."

Joining forces with a specialist MRO provider eases those problems: "They know those platforms inside-out."



NEWS IN BRIEF

Technology with the power of life and death

SK Group of Israel is showcasing the Xaver 400 radar 'through-wall-imaging' system, which the company claims helped in rescuing victims from the recent earthquake rubble in Turkey. SK's Ronen Hamudot said: "The systems we will be exhibiting illustrate our solutions for day and night combat, identifying targets beyond the wall, and maintaining the protection of the forces. "They have all been operationally proven, both by various units of the Israel Defence Forces and by armies around the world."

Halcon is buzzing for Desert Sting-25

Edge's Halcon has announced a contract worth AED 4.7 billion (\$1.28bn) with the UAE Armed Forces, to supply the lightweight Desert Sting-25 air-launched precision-guided munition. The DS-25 is part of Halcon's Desert Sting portfolio, designed to accurately strike targets with differing payloads and stand-off ranges.

Strategicities

Electronica and Etimad Holding signed a strategic partnership for the establishment of an integrated logistic hub for electronic warfare (EW) systems in the UAE. Etimad and its subsidiaries will provide repair and maintenance of the EW system. Both parties will jointly cooperate for the localisation of the system integration and command-and-control of the sensor and actuators.

Spotting a new Constellation

Turkey's SEFINE Shipyard is showing its new Constellation-class concept of an uncrewed surface warship.

The 15-metre vessel is designed to undertake a range of duties, including surveillance, reconnaissance, electronic warfare (EW), or anti-submarine and anti-surface ship warfare.

The fore half of the ship remains the same, but the stern section is modular and can accommodate a variety of payloads.

Trimaran-like 'wings' can be attached to the aft section to provide additional space for loads such as missile launchers or ASW equipment.

The vessel can be operated in three modes – autonomous, semi-autonomous or remote control. "You can give it the plan and it will

go and execute it, or you can have someone with some controls over weapons functions, or you can control all functions remotely," a Sefine Shipyard official.

He said that the first version of the Constellation-class, known as Marlin, which is a monohull design, participated in a NATO exercise off Lisbon, Portugal, in

September 2022. In the next two weeks, the vessel's anti-ship missile launcher would be test-fired.

The vessel is planned to take part in a Turkish Navy exercise in June, followed by another NATO exercise off Lisbon in September.

"The monohull will be validated by June; the 'wings' are ready and we will test them now." The vessel is capable of 36kts and has a range of up to 1,000nm. It can operate in Sea State 5.

Typically, said the official, vessels of this type could only deploy for two to three days, but SEFINE'S initial target is to extend the endurance of the Constellation class to "at least seven days".

SEFINE plans a second family of uncrewed vessels, the Nebula-class, which will be a hybrid surface/submersible design.



we always go

ABOVE + BEYOND

- Corporate Catering
- Healthcare Catering
- Aviation Catering
- Soft Services
- Wedding & Event Catering



capitalcatering.ae

IDEX live demonstration

OUTSIDE influencers

The UAE Army showed off its South African-made G6 self-propelled howitzer



▲ The UAE Army's Leclerc main battle tank is a star performer

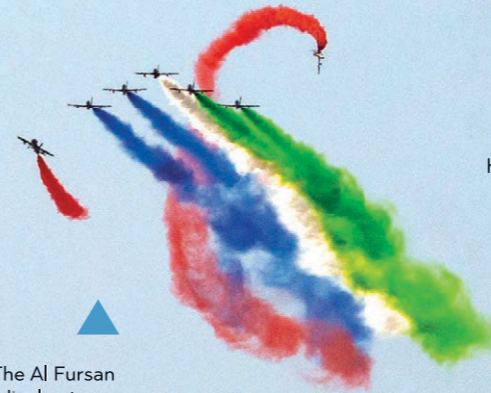


▲ Splashdown and donuts! The IDEX live demonstration features a host of military hardware with a crowd-pleasing display



Planes, tanks, and vessels are in action here at IDEX/NAVDEX as part of the thrilling outdoor show, if visitors seek a distraction from the crowded aisles and meeting rooms of the exhibition floor. Head for the ADNEC Grandstand to get the best view of the vehicle and aerial display area, while the ADNEC Marina is the location for the waterborne action. The NAVDEX live demonstration takes place from 11.45 to 12.45 today, while the IDEX live demonstration is from 13.30 to 14.30. Get your cameras ready at 14.30 to capture the UAE's stunning Al Fursan aerobatic display team with their Aermacchi MB-339A jet trainers.

▲ The Al Fursan display team shows its true colours



▲ China's Poly Technologies makes a splash with its uncrewed A45



▲ The BMP-3 amphibious infantry fighting vehicle has been a mainstay of the UAE Army for more than a decade



CUSTOM INFRARED OPTICAL COMPONENTS EXPERTISE

Wide range of built-to-print and built-to-spec optical elements

MEET US AT BOOTH 02-A20



ophiropt.com/infrared

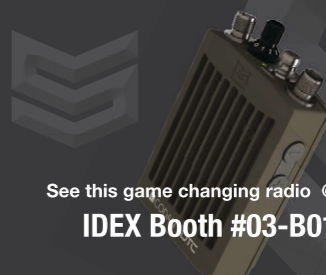


Next generation Mesh radio

for demanding mission requirements



codancomms.com



SENTRY MESH 6161

See this game changing radio @ IDEX Booth #03-B01



WE COME TO YOU

LICENSED DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY BUILT IN YOUR COUNTRY

Our unique approach enables countries to develop independent defence capabilities by way of our portable, in-country manufacturing and transfer of technology, skills and licensed IP.

LAND - SEA - AIR

VISIT US AT HALL 11 STAND B 05



PARAMOUNT



PARAMOUNTGROUP.COM

Daily news updates on timesaerospace.aero

VBL upgrade package on offer to MENA militaries

Arquus is offering the upgraded Véhicule Blindé Léger (VBL – light armoured vehicle) Mk3 to militaries in the MENA region.

The new model, an advanced version of the Panhard VBL, is displayed with a Hornet remote-controlled weapon station (RCWS) and an Akeron anti-tank missile launcher, developed with MBDA.

The Akeron missile is integrated on the side of the RCWS, which preserves the compact size of the Hornet and contributes to its stealth. “With the Hornet Akeron, the VBL Mk3 can be used as a tank killer,” a company spokesman explained.

“With its high mobility and compact silhouette, it is a perfect vehicle for infiltration. It will be able to scout while in movement, and to shoot from inside the vehicle with the Hornet Akeron or, from outside the vehicle, with an Akeron firing station.” The company is offering the system to the UAE army for its requirement of about 200 units of VBLs, he said.

The Panhard VBL is already in service within several armies in



Tank killer capabilities – Arquus’s upgraded Véhicule Blindé Léger Mk3

the Gulf, the Americas, Africa and Europe. Developed by Panhard in the late 1980s, the VBL entered service with the French Army from 1990 to handle reconnaissance, intelligence, and surveillance (ISR) missions.

The export versions of the upgraded VBL also include TOW

anti-tank missile launchers, 20mm cannons, or even short-range air defence capabilities. The VBL Albi can load two Mistral2 AA missiles on top, the official added.

Arquus is also offering the Ultima upgrade package to VBL customers in the MENA region.

The original 90hp engine is

replaced by a 130hp modern, diesel engine and a new automatic gearbox.

“Current-generation VBLs could be modernised with a similar Ultima kit in order to extend their service life by 20 years and give them new capabilities, such as increased power, safety and payload.”

Expert speakers drive home the safety message

A host of speakers graced IDEX’s second UAE Worthiness and Safety Conference, which concluded yesterday. Organised by the Ministry of Defence, the conference provided a platform for promoting dialogue and exchanging knowledge and expertise on the latest trends in the fields of worthiness and safety. It featured sessions on the safety of ports and marine facilities, and mental health in military organisations. In the opening session, Brigadier General Mohamed Abdulla Alnuaimi, director general of fire, protection, and safety affairs at the UAE Ministry of Interior, discussed the role of the UAE Civil Defence.

Cambridge blends new security solution

A security solution for integrating radars, cameras and other devices has been significantly expanded by UK-based Cambridge Pixel.

The newly upgraded VSD software, which the company is displaying at IDEX, provides support for new radars, including Echodyne, Blihter and FLIR, as well as expanding support for video tracking with the OpenWorks system.

Laser range-finders and laser dazzlers are also added to the list of supported devices. VSD’s product manager, Andrew Haylett, said: “We provide the capability to combine the long-range detection of threats, using radar, with target

tracking and identification from automatically slewed cameras. The software can generate alarms on triggered events to turn on and control external equipment, such as loud hailing and laser dazzling devices.”

With a focus on the growing demands of security, including

drone detection and asset protection, the latest software upgrade offers enhanced video blending to combine imagery from daylight and thermal cameras, and user threat classification.

“VSD is part of a family of software components and applications from Cambridge Pixel aimed at making sense of complex sensor information from radars, cameras, and laser detectors. Additional options available include full recording of sensor data, as well as simulation of radar and camera video for training and system evaluation,” said Haylett.



The newly upgraded VSD software

Persistent eyes for threatening skies

A visit to the Lockheed Martin stand at the IDEX show can take you right out of this world – and that puts you firmly in the realm of one of the biggest challenges facing the defence industry.

Global missile testing, proliferation, and capabilities have continued to grow. The goal and challenge is to make sure that you can defend all areas of concern and deny an adversary the ability to launch

undetected. The need requires a multi-layered integrated defence architecture.

Lockheed Martin said at the show that a space-based early warning satellite system will provide an extra margin of safety by detecting and tracking missile launches over the horizon, beyond the range of ground or air-based sensors, providing a 50% greater response time to a launch event.

This additional awareness time can be vital to the protection of citizens. “A sovereign-owned and operated space-based early warning system provides high confidence of coverage of the operator’s area of concern and timely receipt of critical information,” the company said. “A pair of infrared payloads in geostationary orbit provide a stereoscopic view, giving the system the ability to provide near immedi-

ate indication of threat launch and cue radars with highly accurate position and velocity information of the launched missile.

“Space sensors see where radars cannot and can provide more than 50% earlier detection of launch events, provide a 360° regional field of view to cover a broad region of launch zones. They deliver continuous, untasked operations 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.”

MARSS attacks autonomous threats

Global technology company, MARSS, is at IDEX showcasing the latest evolution of its smart solutions to identify, classify and neutralise threats from autonomous vehicles.

While the war in Ukraine has

brought the use of uncrewed air vehicles to everyone’s attention, it was a drone attack on a facility in Saudi Arabia several years ago that focused minds on the threat in the Middle East, said Johannes Pinl, the founder and chief executive

of MARSS. “We’ve seen the new autonomous threat, which mainly are drones for now, and we are here as the world-leader in protecting assets against such autonomous vehicles,” said Pinl. “These are mainly the category two

drones, such as the Shaded 136.” This is an Iranian-made loitering munition with a pusher-prop.

The MARSS system integrates information from a variety of surveillance systems using its AI-powered internet-of-things (IoT) platform, NiDAR Core. “The number one main difficulty is detection,” said Pinl. “This is achieved by radar systems that may be in mobile units, containers or on vessels.”

Air burst cannons

Once a drone is detected at a range of up to 50km it is classified using artificial intelligence to tell whether it is actually a threat or just a bird, explained Pinl. If it is classified as a threat, countermeasures are deployed. “This involves first-jamming and then, lastly, missiles and air burst cannons to neutralise the threat,” he added.

The MARSS system is operating successfully at a number of undisclosed locations in the region, said Pinl. “We are protecting three million people here in the Middle East, at dozens of sites where we have neutralised Shaheed 136 threats.”



Johannes Pinl, MARSS chief executive, said his firm has the technology solution to protect sites from drone attacks

Mission-critical solutions for air defence

IDEX 2023, booth # 01-001

FREQUENTIS

WDS2024 – EQUIPPED FOR TOMORROW

BIGGER, BETTER AND BROADER IN SCOPE

With less than a year until World Defense Show 2024, the countdown is on, with the second edition set to be bigger and better with more comprehensive coverage.

World Defense Show 2024 will be held over 4-8 February next year at the custom-built exhibition venue outside the Saudi Arabian capital Riyadh. The show will run over an increased five days and will introduce new participants, new and enhanced show features and a new theme – Equipped for Tomorrow.

Focus on the future

Under this banner, the second edition will showcase the very latest products and capabilities and focus on the emerging technologies and innovations that are shaping the military, security and defense industries. WDS exhibitors from every part of the supply chain – from primes to start-ups and innovators to investors – will be given new ways to connect, collaborate and create a more inclusive industry.

New Features

The show will feature the Space Arena. The evolution of this increasingly important domain and rapid advances in space expertise create the need for collaboration between global government agencies in the exploration and deployment of intelligent technology. The Space Arena will highlight the Kingdom's ambitions to deliver policies, develop technologies and implement a national space strategy for the sector.

The Future of Defense Hub will incorporate the R&D Hub, the Innovation Hub and the Auditorium, which will host presentations, panel discussions and funding pitch sessions, linking innovators to investors, while the Journey to the Future will take visitors on an exciting interactive exploration of never

before-seen technology. A series of dynamic live displays both on land and in the air will demonstrate the capabilities of the cutting-edge equipment on show.

Huge demand for space

The bespoke venue has been expanded to 47,000sqm, creating a larger footprint by introducing a third exhibition hall to accommodate up to 700 exhibitors with a range of new and expanded country pavilions. Even with the extended facilities, exhibition space is already 70% sold or committed. The team has a range of participation options for interested companies across the supply chain and has seen new and expanded country pavilions clamoring for space.

Exploring opportunities in Saudi Arabia

WDS2024 has a unique proposition for the global defence industry. It offers an elite audience of leaders and decision makers from both the public and private sector. The Meet the KSA Government Program and the Delegations Program facilitate face-to-face meetings with ministers, heads of state, chiefs of staff and other high-ranking officials from 115 delegations representing more than 50 countries, in addition to senior representatives of Saudi government and military entities. WDS2024 will introduce a Preview Day, exclusive to exhibitors, delegations and VIPs, offering unparalleled access to investment opportunities in the Kingdom and creating a path to support the Saudi Vision 2030 economic diversification plans. The extended B2B Connect program will also offer unrivalled networking opportunities for exhibitors and visitors.

To discover more about the show in 2024 or to find out about participating options, visit worlddefenseshow.com

CATIC puts L-15 on display... in UAE markings

China's CATIC is displaying a large model of a Hongdu L-15 advanced jet trainer in UAEAF&AD markings at its stand.

Two obvious differences visible from previous L-15s are the air-to-air refuelling probe on the top of the aircraft's nose and the two wide-area displays in the cockpit.

Under the wings are several different munitions, while air defence missiles occupy the wingtip rails.

They are just examples of possible advanced jet trainer armaments. Undoubtedly, if a light attack version is acquired, those hard points would be occupied by Edge weapons.

A deal to purchase 12 L-15s was announced by the UAEAF&AD in

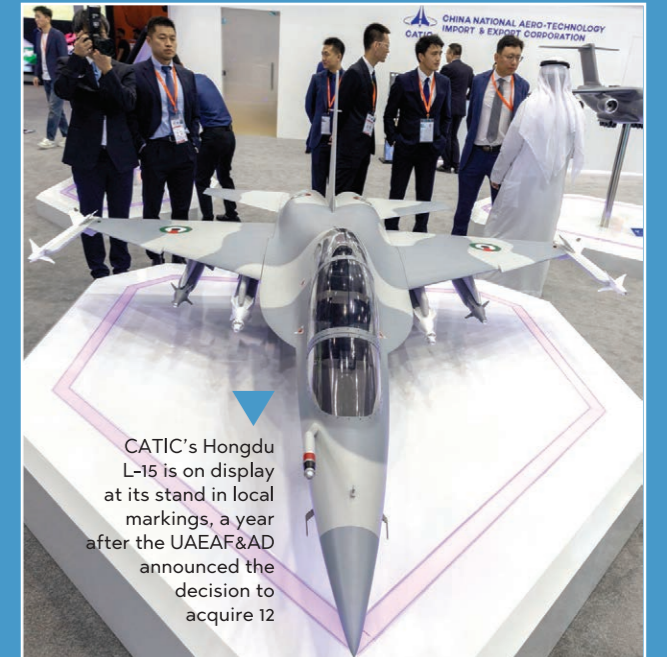
February 2022, while there is an option for 36 more – split between light combat and advanced jet training.

The first aircraft should be delivered to the UAE's AI Fursan aerobatic team to replace the veteran MB 339s.

The US Government is, apparently, unhappy with the L-15 decision and that could block any possible Lockheed Martin F-35 acquisition.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian Air Force is also considering the L-15 as a replacement for its surviving fleet of 120 Hongdu K-8s, used for advanced jet training. Some were licence-built in Egypt, with the last one delivered in 2010.

Zambia already operates six L-15s that were delivered in 2015/16.



CATIC's Hongdu L-15 is on display at its stand in local markings, a year after the UAEAF&AD announced the decision to acquire 12

PAL aiming to plug 'the jet gap'

With Boeing drawing ever closer to delivering the last of the P-8 Poseidon maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft now on order, other manufacturers are starting to scent a potential opportunity – not least the UAE's own PAL Aircraft Services.

Boeing has delivered more than 155 P-8As and P-8Is, of 185 now on firm order or planned, meaning that without further orders, and with a minimum viable annual production rate of 12 aircraft, the line could close within three years.

Boeing is actively pursuing market opportunities in a number of countries, but competitors sense that there could soon be a 'jet gap' looming.

"Now is the time for a market filler," Mahmoud El-Awini, PAL's vice president of business development, said.

The Abu Dhabi-based company is looking for a launch customer for its Global 6500-based P-6 maritime patrol aircraft (MPA), which bears some similarity to the Swordfish concept once offered by Saab.

The Swedish company, though, has no plans to dust off its Global-based MPA, preferring to concentrate on core products – including the Glo-

balEye AEW&C aircraft, the Gripen fighter, surface radar, land warfare offerings and submarines.

Though many elements of the P-6 concept remain undefined (as these will depend on customer requirements, while PAL is platform and systems agnostic), the aircraft will offer a 360° radar, an EO/IR sensor, a magnetic anomaly detector (MAD), between two and six underwing stores stations, and a 'flex bay' able to carry torpedoes, anti-ship missiles or search-and-rescue kits.

The aircraft could accommodate between three and eight operator

workstations, leveraging the company's work on the Q400-based P-4 MPA.

A number of local air forces are known to be looking to increase their MPA, antisubmarine warfare (ASW), and maritime intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities.

Saudi Arabia has long been linked with a requirement for the P-8, for example, while other GCC nations face similar surface and subsurface threats and recognise the need for enhanced maritime domain awareness.



Now is a time for a market filler – and that is the P-6

▲ NEWS IN BRIEF

Bell signs off AH-1Z for Bahrain

Bell Textron said at IDEX that it has completed its part of the AH-1Z helicopter programme for the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF). Bell delivered the final production aircraft to Naval Air Systems Command in the US in December. Meanwhile, the first Bahrain AH-1Zs made their in-country debut during the Bahrain International Airshow and six have been delivered in country. The final six helicopters are being prepared for shipment to Bahrain with the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) later in the year.

The height of precision

The UAE could be manufacturing the successful FireBurst system following a business plan approval signed between Kaman Precision Products and the Tawazun Council at IDEX yesterday. The manufacturing and final assembly will be carried out with Kaman and Remah International Group at the Tawazun Industrial Park in Abu Dhabi.



**WORLD
DEFENSE
SHOW**
SAUDI ARABIA
4-8 FEB 2024

FOUNDED BY

الهيئة العامة
للصناعات العسكرية
General Authority
for Military Industries



UNLOCK NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Experience a wealth of unique networking, world-class show features and dynamic live demonstrations, with the platform that brings industry leaders, major players, governments and startups together under one roof.

Discover More, Visit us at
Stand 08-A33, Hall 8

EQUIPPED FOR TOMORROW





نراكم في الدورة القادمة SEE YOU NEXT EDITION

21 - 23 MAY 2024 مايو 23 - 21



To book your stand for next edition,
please visit us on the sales stand in hall 9

لجز منطك للدورة القادمة،
الرجاء زيارة منطنا في قاعة 9

Organised by

من تنظيم

CAPITAL
EVENTS



Part of

ADNEC
مجموعة أدنيك GROUP

In association with

بالتعاون مع



وزارة الداخلية
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

Based on the four main pillars of digital technology - connectivity, big data, artificial intelligence and cybersecurity - Thales supports its customers in their digital transformation. Thales's solutions allow armed forces to accelerate the tempo of their operations and stay one-step ahead through information superiority and interoperability of their systems. The Nexium Defence Cloud is a proven solution that enables to forces to operate effectively in a disconnected environment, deployable in less than 24 hours

PROTECTING DIGITAL ASSETS THE NEXIUM DEFENCE CLOUD

As military operations become increasingly data-driven, access to critical data and applications is a crucial requirement for the armed forces.

The defence cloud developed by Thales enables the forces to analyse and share data in real time from the command centre to the theatre of operations, pursue their digital transformation in complete security, and accelerate the decision cycle to gain and maintain an operational advantage.

Until now, it could take several months and dozens of specialised engineers working at sites close to the combat zone to deploy the assets required.

With Nexium Defence Cloud and its Service Design Studio and orchestration system, a small team of experts can deploy IT services and applications to locations thousands of kilometres away in just a few hours.

This solution is based on a holistic approach encompassing applications management, IT, networks and security, with an overall system architecture designed to accommodate various different levels of confidentiality.

Nexium Defence Cloud incorporates the best civil

and commercial technologies available to provide a complete, modular, sovereign solution that enables forces to operate fully autonomously in the theatre of operations.

It offers a wide array of possible configurations, from very high-capacity and easily scalable infrastructure for command headquarters to all-in-one containerised systems that transform a forward base into a new cloud node in just a few hours.

This easy interconnection within ad hoc organisations and command structures increases mission effectiveness with an unparalleled level of security.

COMPACT, INTEGRATED, MODULAR...

Nexium Defence Cloud is the most compact, highly integrated and modular solution available today. It includes all the components of military command posts (cabinets, servers, data storage media, supervision system, etc.) and meets performance requirements in terms of size, weight and power (SWaP) to simplify deployment and minimise the logistics footprint.

Nexium Defence Cloud was selected by NATO in 2021 as its first defence cloud for the armed forces. ●



Nexium Defence Cloud incorporates the best civil and commercial technologies available to provide a complete, modular, sovereign solution that enables forces to operate fully autonomously in the theatre of operations

Daily news updates on timesaerospace.aero

New UAE plant will be Crown jewel

India's Crown Ships & Boats plans to have its new UAE manufacturing plant operational in around six to eight months, the company's founder said at IDEX.

Sonu Jayan said that his company, which builds electrically powered vessels, is currently constructing an initial electric auto-

nous launch for the Indian Navy. The boat is scheduled for delivery in April. "If it passes the service's tests there will be an order for 70," said Jayan.

The boat is being built at Crown's facility in Cochin, Kerala and is designed for patrol and interception roles. Its sensors will have a 40nm range and weapons

can be fitted, added Jayan.

Maximum speed is 22kts and it has an eight-to-ten-hour running time on its on-board batteries. Recharging takes eight to ten hours, or as little as two to three if a supercharger mechanism is used.

The UAE manufacturing facility is under construction at Kizab, Abu Dhabi. "We hope to get orders

here and are in discussions with the UAE Navy," said Jayan.

Any orders from the UAE, or export orders for the company's products, will be handled at the UAE yard.

Crown is also promoting a 22-passenger electrically powered workboat; this can also be weaponised for naval use.



Sustainably roping in the customers

Marlow Ropes is rolling out its latest sustainably manufactured Fast Rope at IDEX. The UK company has pioneered the first sustainably manufactured product using recycled-based content (BCF rPA).

The new specification has created a strong, firm rope with less elongation. The construction allows "comfortable control" throughout descent and makes it easier to slow down and brake.

Marlow's defence sales director, Richard Edge, said: "The suppleness of the material means that the rope is not hard on the hands as less force is required, plus oil and general spillage do not affect the speed of descent as Marlow Fast Ropes absorb liquid."

Marlow will also be showcasing the HMPE fibre SPIE safety system for inserting and extracting up to 12 personnel at a time, which

is popular within the aerial rescue and evacuation field thanks to its lightweight and high-strength properties.

Its newest development in this area – the SPIE WPX – is now available for air-sea rescue operations, thanks to its lightweight, floating polysteel construction, while the SPIE DPX version offers the same advantages but in higher strength Dyneema D12+.



The model way for PAL to make new friends

PAL Indonesia is showing two new concept vessels on its stand. Both are upgrades of previous designs.

The government-owned yard is displaying models of a new guided missile escort and a fast attack craft (missile).

The escort has grown marginally in length to 106m from the previous iteration's 105m, but speed has risen from 25kts to 28kts.

The PKR design has a main gun and close-in weapon system (CIWS) for defence against enemy missiles, together with eight anti-ship missiles of its own and a helicopter deck.

The attack craft has had its speed significantly boosted from 30kts

to 40kts by switching to waterjet propulsion, as opposed to conventional propellers.

Meanwhile, the company is also showing an LPD landing ship destined for the UAE Navy, which has just started construction in Indonesia.

The vessel can float landing craft out from its stern well deck, and its helicopter deck affords sufficient space for three helicopters of up to Boeing Chinook size.

UAE companies will supply local content for the vessel, for which a delivery date has not yet been given. It can be used for either naval or humanitarian missions, as well as acting as a vehicle for diplomacy.

▲ PAL Indonesia is showing this upgraded guided missile escort

Navantia

F110
Innovation where it matters

M

NiDAR™ X-JOC

MODULAR SURFACE POSITIONED AI POWERED COMMAND AND CONTROL WITH INTEGRATED COMMS AND COUNTERMEASURES FOR FORCE PROTECTION

LEARN MORE AT **STAND B-080**

marss.com

MARSS

An Integrated Communication Platform FOR DEFENSE AND SECURITY INDUSTRIES

CONNECT WITH US
International Defence Exhibition & Conference - IDEX 2023
20 - 24 February 2023
STAND NO 01-000

edcc.gov.ae

United Arab Emirates

Edge's ambitious CEO has his sights set on expansion

Mansour AlMulla, a leader at the cutting Edge

UAE's Edge is undeniably one of the fastest-growing businesses in the UAE, if not the world! Launched in November 2019, Edge is bidding to consolidate many of UAE's advanced technology aerospace companies into one group as part of the country's vision for self-sufficiency.

Driving that ambition is Mansour AlMulla, the managing director and CEO since early 2021.

"The aim of the business is to bring all the defence companies together under one brand, double down on their efforts and see where we can expand," he said.

It certainly seems to be working, judging from the number of new ambitious projects the company has launched.

Split into three focus areas: precision-guided munitions, autonomous systems, and electronic warfare, all with their own management teams, AlMulla is expecting big things: "Targeting the export markets is one of our priorities – we have come a long way since 2021, when we topped AED 1.1 billion (\$299m) worth of sales contracts. Last year we achieved AED 5.2 billion – a 500% increase – and hope to come close to that this year."

It's a tremendous effort, as can be seen by the size of the Edge pavilion and the unveiling of, arguably, IDEX's star exhibit, the stealthy-looking Juneih uncrewed air combat vehicle (UCAV) concept.

"We started its development not that long ago and hope it will be flying in three years or so," AlMulla said, adding: "It's very exciting – one of our newest projects that could be our flagship one day."

EDGE cut its teeth on autonomous systems at ADASI, with the Gamoosha UAV positioned at the front of its stand. "Designed to fulfil a surveillance mission, it is now a mature project and has been in operation for seven years," according to AlMulla, which is why there wasn't so much fuss about it.

"I am particularly proud of the Reach-S surveillance/armed UAV, which only flew for the first time two weeks ago in bad weather conditions, while there is the jet-powered Shadow 25 and propeller driven Shadow 50, depending upon your requirements, which are

loitering munitions."

The Shadow 25 has been flight-tested and now it is in the final stages of development. "These are the future of the industry," Al Mulla said proudly. "Edge is always on the look-out for businesses that will complement our existing skills."

"For example, we acquired a majority share in Milrem Robotics, a company that we believe has some exciting solutions. After meeting them at Saudi's World Defense Show in March last year, we had taken over the company by December. It is bringing new and exciting skills to our business."

AlMulla was keen to stress that these projects are not just for the UAE; Edge wants to export them too. "We get a lot of support from the MoD and Tawazun to help create and realise some of these new capabilities," he said. "Ultimately, we want to integrate all of our weapons on to operational western or eastern platforms. Additionally, we want to sell weapons, like the Al Tariq, Thunder, and Desert Sting PGMs, that can be integrated on to any platform."

AlMulla is looking at all possible sales opportunities: "Our main markets are countries around us in the GCC and Africa, but south-east Asia is now receiving more attention – not only to sell, but to partner in a development capability beneficial to the country. We are making real efforts," he concluded. ▲



"Targeting the export markets is one of our priorities – we have come a long way since 2021"

MANSOUR ALMULLA
EDGE MD, CEO

شركة كويست هي اختيارك الأول لكل ما يخص التكنولوجيا الرقمية المصممة للجنود

Your 'Go To' Company for Soldier Digitization



KWESST
NEXT GENERATION TACTICAL SYSTEMS
Booth: 01-B34



KWESST.com

Small is beautiful for India's Brahmos

India's Brahmos Aerospace is showing the planned new variant of its supersonic anti-ship missile, Brahmos NG.

Unveiled at last week's Aero-India exhibition, the company has developed the new-generation version in response to potential customer requests.

The original Brahmos, co-developed by India and Russia, is a Mach 2 anti-ship weapon.

"It's a nine-metre long missile weighing three tonnes and we were facing some issues with installing such a large missile on some platforms," said the company's director (mar-

ket promotion and export), Praveen Pathak. "For example, the air-launched version could only be installed on the Sukhoi Su-30."

By using lighter composite materials and modifying the missile's engine, the length of the missile has been reduced to six metres and its weight to 1.4 tonnes.

However, the missile's speed has actually increased slightly, from M2.8 to M3.0, while the range remains "almost the same" at 290km.

The new version is undergoing ground tests; it is estimated to take around two years to reach the flight-test stage.



▼ The smaller NG version of Brahmos shown under the wings of a model Sukhoi Su-30, contrasting with the original version on the centreline



MSI Hawking its wares

MSI Defence Systems is exhibiting its advanced weapon systems, C-UAS capabilities, and maritime precision engagement systems at the show. "We were traditionally a maritime provider of upper-deck weapons to the Royal Navy and 22 other global navies; then we transitioned to the land environment," said Hayden White, senior military advisor (pictured above). "The maritime products are called Seahawk, while the land products are known as Terrahawk."

The company recently launched the NATO-standard Paladin, offering layered lethality protecting high-value targets and critical infrastructure, including coastal protection.

The company is displaying one of its Terrahawk LW (lightweight) systems, used for very short-range air defence against small aerial targets. It can be deployed as a singleton or part of a network under a combat management system.

It is also showing its MSI-DS SEAHAWK LW series, integrated with the Northrop Grumman MK44s 30mm cannon, for deployable air defence systems.

Kamov unveils Ka-226T VIP version

Russian Helicopters, part of the Rostec State Corporation, chose IDEX to unveil the new VIP variant of its Ka-226T helicopter.

The aircraft is still based on a so-called 'flying chassis' concept, in which different role-specific modules can be mounted suspended behind the cockpit.

These modules are user-swappable by a team of four in just half an hour, allowing the helicopter to be quickly converted to passenger, medevac or

cargo configuration.

The VIP module seats four in luxurious leather seats and has an air conditioning/APU module on the port side.

Russian Helicopters believes that the VIP variant could have particular appeal in the region, said company spokesperson, Valeria Puminova.

The aircraft at IDEX is based on the new Ka-226T 'Climber' variant of the Ka-226, with Turbomeca Arrius 2G engines and the new more streamlined 'glider'

nose profile, though the company hopes to change to 650hp Klimov VK-650V engines as part of its sanctions-driven campaign of 'import substitution'.

The upgraded Ka-226T has a redesigned lower weight airframe and improved flight performance with significantly enhanced payload and range.

Already compact, thanks to its coaxial, contra-rotating twin-rotor configuration, the aircraft now has a new main rotor mast with a blade folding mechanism.



▼ Kamov company spokesperson, Valeria Puminova in the new VIP variant of its Ka-226T helicopter



SEE YOU NEXT EDITION

17-21
FEBRUARY
2025

VISIT HALL 2 SALES OFFICE TO
SECURE YOUR PLACE FOR 2025

idexuae.ae | navdex.ae

Organised By



In association with



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

EDGE

UNBOUND THINKING. PRECISION TARGETING.



Today's missions require reliable, versatile and accurate strike capabilities. EDGE looks beyond traditional approaches and expectations to deliver new technologies that unlock combat success. Deploy the future with AL TARIQ's high-precision, modular, long-range PGM kits with anti-jammer technology, or HALCON's family of DESERT STING precision-guided glide weapons, THUNDER family of cost-effective, short-range guided munitions or SKYKNIGHT air defence system, HAS-250 anti-ship missile system, or NASEF low-cost cruise missile. On land, air and sea, EDGE imagines more, pioneering the technologies that prevent tomorrow's threats.

PRECISION GUIDED
MUNITIONS

Visit us at IDEX - Hall 5, A05

edgegroup.ae