

Dubai Airshow 2019: “a big success”



Static lineup close to the chalets (photo: Premjit Singh)

Sales of \$54.5 billion and record attendance

Dubai Airshow 2019, held from 17-21 November, has been hailed as a success by exhibitors, delegates and sponsors alike, as a lively week of trading came to a close. With more than 1,288 exhibitors (up 10% from the previous edition) in attendance, 161 aircraft on the event's static display and a packed schedule of conferences and keynotes, the programme was the show's busiest to date – as evidenced by the footfall of 84,043 trade attendees. Sales were also booming, with the order book on site reaching \$54.5 billion by close of business with the United Arab Emirates announcing a contract for the purchase of two additional GlobalEye's from Saab.

Dubai Airshow 2019 was officially opened on 17 November, by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai, with Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of UAE Armed Forces. Also in attendance was Crown Prince of Dubai Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who joined his father for an inaugural tour of the site.

The static display included many new civil, business and military aircraft plus a selection of helicopters from industry leaders

and new players, including an A330neo displayed by Airbus, a Viking Twin Otter Series 400 from Viking Aircraft and Cessna Caravan C208B alongside a G120TP from Grob Aircraft. Emirates Airline showcased its ultra long range Boeing 777-300, A380-800 and Airbus Corporate Jet 319 while the AURA 100 UAV was on display from Aura Group of Companies (AGC).

Gulfstream showed its G500, G600 and G650 aircraft and other inclusions were from the Japanese Ministry of Defence, the French Air Force and of course the UAE Air Force. Soaring above the Dubai Airshow in the flying display were the UAE's *Al Fursan* aerobatic display team, in addition to the French Air Force *Patrouille de France*, returning to the Dubai Airshow for the first time since 2011. Also flying was a Dassault Rafale and a Boeing B787-9 as well as several helicopters and the UK-based display team, the *Blades*.

Among 100 new exhibitors, were Saudi Arabia's The Helicopter Company, which was also a key event sponsor. CEO Yahya Homoud Alghoraibi said the firm's first show had been very successful. “We have done more than we expected, we have met and had discussions with a lot of companies and have seen a lot of customers and shown our aircraft to many people as well, so we are very happy with what has taken place. We are a

new company, so relationships matter a lot. Communication matters as well, and Dubai Airshow is one of the best communicators.”

Making its debut this year was EDGE, a group comprising 25 local entities working in five aerospace capability clusters, which

EDGE at Dubai airshow

EDGE, the advanced technology group inaugurated by Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on 5 November, had the largest individual presence at this year's Dubai Airshow. EDGE is the first-ever Advanced Technology Partner of the Dubai Airshow in its 30-year history. With the largest pavilion at the Airshow, EDGE showcased the capabilities of 11 entities: ADASI, AMMROC, Al Tariq, Beacon Red, EARTH, EPI, ETS, GAL, Halcon, Horizon and Jaheziya – covering industries focusing on autonomous systems, precision-guided aerial weapons - all the way to guided systems and MRO services for military aircraft, to name a few.