



**AAD**  
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**AFRICA**  
**AEROSPACE AND DEFENCE**  
**2008**



**17 - 21 SEPTEMBER**

**Air Force Base Ysterplaat, Cape Town, RSA**

**ACCLAIMED VEHICLE GETS NEW VARIANT**

BAE Systems launched a new variant of South Africa's most successful export mine protected vehicle at AAD2008.

Part of the RG series of mine-resistant personnel carrier vehicles, the RG31 Mk6E, incorporates new anti-mine seats, which provide enhanced protection to the occupants from lumbar spinal injuries.

Since receiving a Canadian armed forces order for RG31 Mk3 vehicles in 2003, the Benoni-based company's RG-series have boosted South African exports by more than ZAR3.5 billion (\$430 million) and created over 300 new jobs at its factory.



**DOD ESTABLISHES DEFENCE INDUSTRY SUPPORT (DIS)**

The Department of Defence (DOD) has embarked on a new initiative for an Integrated Industry Support concept, which will incorporate the South African Defence Export Support Organisation.

It was announced at AAD2008 that Armscor will formulate a Defence Industry Support (DIS) strategy, based on developing Strategic Defence Industry Capabilities as an extension of the SANDF capability; promoting economic transformation within the South African defence-related industry (SADRI); and promoting SADRI exports through the effective "Industry Ambassadorship". The latter includes mechanisms like international bilaterals, UN Mission, and/or AU mission participation.

Armscor's DIS section, which forms part of the Logistics and Materiel Support Department, will work closely with other stakeholders, such as the South African Aerospace Maritime and Defence Industries Association (AMD).

Further information is available from the DIS Project Leader, Mr Shane George on email: [shaneg@armscor.co.za](mailto:shaneg@armscor.co.za)



**defence**  
Department of Defence  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**EUROCOPTER UPGRADES CAPE TOWN FACILITIES**

At an AAD2008 media conference, Eurocopter announced that it invested some R2 million in upgrading its servicing and maintenance facility in Cape Town. This will enable it to support a rapidly expanding Southern African customer base and fleet.

The company's regional subsidiary, Eurocopter Southern Africa (Pty.) Ltd., officially opened the newly refurbished on 18 September to coincide with the Africa Aerospace and Defence exhibition where it has a strong presence.

Eurocopter currently supports a fleet of about 230 helicopters operating throughout Southern Africa. Most of these are in service with the police services in the region, emergency medical rescue organisations and VIP/ corporate operations. Some helicopters are also used in geo-seismic missions, game counting or powerline inspection, as well as in the tourism/charter market.

At AAD2008 several helicopters from the company's light single-engine range are displayed, including an EC120 and AS350.

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