



NEWS RELEASE

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AAD2008 EXHIBITION & AIR SHOW IS SOLD OUT

With the opening day of the Africa Aerospace & Defence exhibition and air show (AAD 2008) barely two weeks away, all available space has been taken up. AAD opens on 17 September at Air Force Base Ysterplaat in Cape Town for three trade days, with the public getting access on 20 and 21 September.

“With more than 30 countries exhibiting, all exhibition space in the 9 halls and the static aircraft park has been 100% sold out,” said Mr Geoff van Hees, AAD show organiser. “This is exceptional and we are grateful for the huge support we’re getting for the Cape Town venue.”

The organisers expect around 17 000 trade visitors and 70 000 visitors on each of the two public days. More than 200 foreign and local journalists have applied for media accreditation to cover AAD 2008.

AAD 2008 is co-owned by the South African Aerospace, Maritime and Defence Industries Association (AMD), Armscor, and the Commercial Aviation Association of Southern Africa (CAASA) and fully supported by the Department of Defence. This year’s event is hosted by AMD.

The daily flying display includes the latest Air Force aircraft, notably Gripen, Hawk, Agusta A109 and the SA Navy’s shipborne Super Lynx helicopters, as well as the Rooivalk and Oryx. The general aviation sector is also well represented with the latest aircraft like Dassault’s 7X business jet (able to fly non-stop from Europe to Johannesburg) and NAC’s brand new Hawker 4000. It is expected Brazil’s Embraer will bring one of its regional airliners.

A new addition to the show is a dedicated section for light sports aircraft (LSA), which include home-built and kit aircraft, microlights and gliders.

Besides the displays at Ysterplaat Air Force Base, naval vessels which will include a SA Navy submarine and frigate, as well as a ship from the UK Royal Navy are scheduled to berth at Cape Town’s V&A Waterfront.

Public day visitors can avoid the queues by purchasing pre-paid tickets that are available from all Cape Town Tourism and National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) Offices. These tickets cost less than the gate price (R40 for adults and R30 for pensioners and children under 12). Entrance gates will open from 06:00am on the public days. Kiosks on site will provide ample refreshments and therefore picnic baskets will not be allowed. For security reasons at Air Force Base Ysterplaat, alcohol, gas braais or open fires, firearms and pets are prohibited.

Come enjoy two days of great fun at AAD 2008. Bring your camera to capture the exciting moments. Young and old will love it.

AAD’s expanded youth development programme (YDP) with interactive displays, like simulators and model-building competitions, will entice young learners on the world of high technology, aviation and science.

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