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## **COVID-19 UNCERTAINTIES LEAD TO CANCELLATION OF THE AEROSPACE AND DEFENCE SPACE TRADE SHOW (ADTS 2021)**

The organisers of the Aerospace and Defence Trade Show (ADTS 2021) today announced the indefinite cancellation of the event, previously scheduled to take place on 22-26 March 2021 at Lanseria International Airport.

The announcement comes at a time when South Africa is in a second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the announcement of the extension of the National State of Disaster by the South African President, His Excellency Mr Cyril Ramaphosa. With the enormous uncertainties that the pandemic has dealt the global events industry, the successful execution of the ADTS was significantly compromised.

“The decision to cancel this event was not an easy one, however the health and safety of all concerned, together with adhering to the prescripts of the law, is of absolute importance to us”, said Sandile Ndlovu, Acting Executive Director of the South African Aerospace, Maritime and Defence Industries Association (AMD) and Excom Chairperson for ADTS 2021.

The global COVID-19 pandemic, especially in its recent newly discovered strains, continues to have a huge impact on the events industry, which has seen many international event organisers either deferring their events from their traditional dates, or choosing to out rightly cancelling their shows based on the effect of the pandemic in their respective countries.

Although South Africa has kept international air travel opened after the pronouncement of the return to revised Level 3 Alert lockdown, the second wave resulted in the cancellation or decline of certain international flights into the country, associated with the international sentiment of the strain originating in South Africa. The knock-on effect to ADTS was on the arrival of international participants and guests.

“Trade events traditionally rely on the patronage of international delegations, and this is a return on investment that we would offer to our exhibitors; failing to present our exhibitors with high-level delegations and buyers would not auger well for us as organisers. This was also a factor taken into account in the decision-making process.

“We’ve looked at all the possible scenarios and really want to thank all exhibitors and sponsors for their patience and unwavering support in the past months leading to this difficult and yet essential decision.

“Our focus now is directed at AAD2022, which is scheduled to take place from 21 to 25 September 2022. We will continue to work hard at creating platforms for the South African defence and aerospace industry that will bring value to their business initiatives and grow

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their international footprints, and so look forward to welcoming all our valued stakeholders to AAD2022", concluded Ndlovu.

Ends

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