



Stakeholders board a Defence Force aircraft at Air Force Base Waterkloof, Pretoria, after a discussion to announce the details of Africa's Aerospace and Defence air show yesterday.
PICTURE: BONGANI SHILUBANE/AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA)

Military air show grows in size and prestige

James Mahlokwane

WORLD-CLASS technology returns next month when Africa's Aerospace and Defence (ADD2018) takes place at the Air Force Base Waterkloof from September 19 to 23.

Commercial Aviation Association of Southern Africa chief executive Leon Dillman said the event was a must for everyone.

Dillman said this year's exhibition had already created enough excitement to attract countries like Saudi Arabia, Slovakia and South Korea to

participate in the multinational exhibition for the first time.

"Guests will have an opportunity to see one of the best air shows on this continent.

"We have not just local, but international participations, and various civil acts. We are also planning to have a huge grand finale for the closing event; that's going to be a first for us – but I cannot talk about it at this stage," he said.

City spokesperson Lindela Mashigo said Tshwane was proud to be hosting this year's exhibition, and he was confident it would not be the last.

"The City has invested close to R2 million in this and we are hoping to have spin-offs in terms of the economy and in terms of destination marketing for our tourism industry.

"We are not going to only have local people, but also international delegates and businesspeople because this is a mega event that cuts across South African borders and reaches the entire continent," he said.

Mashigo was particularly impressed that the organisers had assured him they were reaching out to disadvantaged

communities to experience defence exhibitions throughout the year, and they would do the same for ADD2018.

Dillman said the first three days of the event would be trade days for business-to-business deals, sales, networking and marketing.

Members of the public were invited to take along their children on the public days on September 22 and 23.

ADD2018 was expected to host 90 official delegations from 47 countries, 100 military and civilian aircraft and 450 accredited local and interna-

tional media. This included numerous exhibitions from 37 countries, 35 000 trade visitors and at least 80 000 general public visitors.

Numerous companies had confirmed the specific aircraft they would be exhibiting, and the number was growing.

Organisers encouraged members of the public to download the ADD Expo 2018 application, which was already available on Android and Apple.

The app would allow users to live stream the air show and access daily content.