



Dubai *Airshow*

Attracts Record Visitors Despite Downturn

Dubai Airshow closed its doors to another successful aerospace extravaganza, setting a new record in visitor numbers and confirming that the Middle East region is the springboard for a rebounding aerospace industry.

The show ran over five days, from 15 to 19 November, and attracted 52,978 industry professionals from 138 countries, an 18 per cent rise in attendee numbers compared to the previous airshow in 2007, while welcoming new visitors from seven additional countries.

The increase in visitors was reflected in the show's biggest-ever exhibitor numbers - 890 companies from 47 countries, with 150 first-time participants – plus an additional 7,000sqm in floor space to accommodate the anticipated surge in exhibitors, as the eyes of the aerospace industry turned to the Middle East region for signs of an upturn.

And they were not disappointed: The Dubai Airshow closed with a declared on-site order-book in excess of US\$14 billion, including sales of civil and military aircraft, helicopters, engines, plus agreements for heavy maintenance, cabin refurbishment and crew management processes.

While the UAE accounted for the largest country share, it represented less than a third of the overall tally at just over 17,000.

A notable increase in visitors from North African states was reflected in the onsite orders placed.

Airbus closed lucrative deals with Ethiopian and Senegal Airlines, along with Nepal and Yemenia. The aircraft maker's COO – Customers, John Leahy commented: "We had a good airshow, better than many expected, but our industry is not out of the woods yet.

There will be a difficult winter ahead of us, but with the deals we made in Dubai and the interest in our products that we saw here, Spring may not be that far away."

Ministers of Defence, presidents and CEOs of airlines, plus chairmen of civil aviation authorities attended as part of the 511 civil and military delegations at the Dubai Airshow and their active participation was noteworthy.