

Monthly Newsletter

South African Aerospace, Maritime and Defence Industries Association



Mwari displays its 'warrior spirit' during flight test



Although the turboprop light tactical aircraft space is well stocked with established and new offerings, Paramount's **Mwari** is a welcome addition, with its internal pod system and pending smart weapons integration enabling it to make its presence felt over the battlefield.

This is according to UK-based publication *Flight Global*, which recently had the opportunity to flight test the aircraft at Paramount's Wonderboom National Airport facility outside Pretoria.

Mozambique is the Mwari's launch customer, receiving its first aircraft in late 2022. A year later, it had accumulated over 70 hours of flying on the type, which Paramount is hoping to sell to other African and European customers. Mozambique has ordered three aircraft, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) six.

Paramount is optimistic about the Mwari's prospects in the armed overwatch market, noting that global air capability spending will reach over \$476 billion over the next five years, with the Armed Overwatch/Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) market estimated to provide \$32.3 billion of opportunities.

The **Mwari** is the first new clean-sheet manned military aircraft in South Africa since the Rooivalk attack helicopter.

The **Mwari** is marketed as a relatively inexpensive alternative to high-end military aircraft for surveillance, maritime patrol and counter-insurgency operations. It can also be used for training.

The **Mwari** has been designed to easily perform multiple missions thanks to an innovative Interchangeable Mission Systems Bay (IMSB), located in the belly of the aircraft, providing near-endless sensor and payload options which can be integrated and be swapped out in less than two hours. Open-architecture and flexible systems allows for the quick and low-cost integration of new pods, avionics, cargo, special mission equipment, weapons and sensors. The IMSB can carry payloads up to 317 kg, and the **Mwari** can supply 400 kW of power for payloads. Six external hardpoints on the wings can carry up to 1 000 kg in total.

Sensors and equipment that have already been fitted to the aircraft include Hensoldt's Argos II electro-optical gimbal, Paramount Advanced Technologies' 420 sensor ball, Thales's Avni thermal reconnaissance system, Sysdel's MiniRaven radar warning receiver, and Reutech's ACR510 radio, amongst others. Future options could include a synthetic aperture radar (SAR). A pusher propeller configuration ensures debris is not kicked up into the sensor gimbal during takeoff or landing.

Mwari has been designed with portable production in mind. The aircraft could, depending on customer requirements, be exported in kit format for final assembly in customer countries and can easily integrate into supply chains around the world, enabling scalable mass production.

Flight test
Flight Global in late 2023 experienced the **Mwari** first hand, noting its purpose-built 'find, fix, finish' design, which includes a high wing and pusher design for excellent cockpit visibility – the weapon systems officer sits notably higher than the pilot, the publication noted.

Its pilot flew a production representative aircraft three times, first from the rear seat, and then twice from the pilot's seat, exploring its performance limits, aerobatic abilities, and mission profile capabilities, including with its Argos II sensor gimbal. The testing, which also included a simulated forced landing, left "a big smile" on the test pilot's face.

The full flight test report can be found on the [Flight Global website here](#).

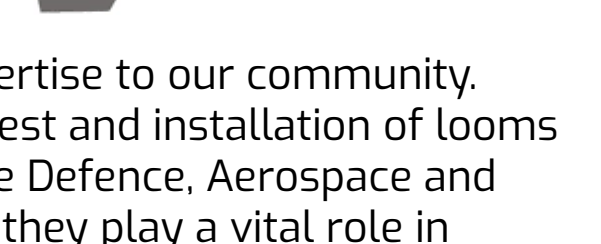


Welcoming New Members to the AMD Family

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that we extend a warm welcome to our newest members: Thuthuka Harness Solutions, Stealth Tactical & Arms, and Black Eagle Aviation Services. As part of the AMD family, we are thrilled to embark on this journey together and look forward to the mutual growth and success that lies ahead.

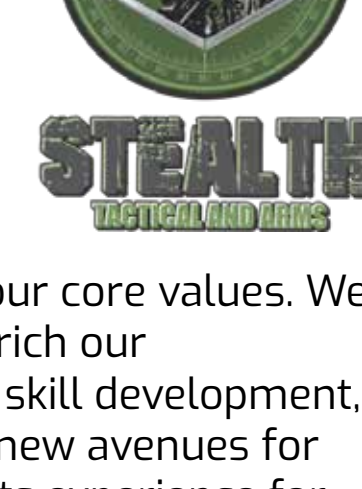
Thuthuka Harness Solutions:

With a commitment to excellence in safety and innovation, Thuthuka Harness Solutions brings invaluable expertise to our community. Specialising in manufacturing, test and installation of looms and harnesses for the use in the Defence, Aerospace and Telecommunication Industries, they play a vital role in ensuring the safety and security of various industries. We are honoured to have them on board and eagerly anticipate the contributions they will make to our collective endeavours.



Stealth Tactical & Arms:

As a premier shooting range, Stealth Tactical & Arms offers a comprehensive experience for firearms enthusiasts. With a wealth of experience and knowledge in the realm of shooting sports, they bring invaluable expertise to the AMD network. Their unwavering dedication to providing top-quality facilities and innovative shooting experiences aligns perfectly with our core values. We are confident that their participation will enrich our community by fostering a culture of safety, skill development, and camaraderie. Together, we can explore new avenues for collaboration and elevate the shooting sports experience for



enthusiasts across the board.

Black Eagle Aviation Services: With a focus on aviation services and solutions, Black Eagle Aviation Services represents a significant addition to our diverse membership. Their expertise in the aerospace sector is unparalleled, and we are excited to leverage their insights to further enhance our collective capabilities in this crucial industry.



At AMD, we believe in the power of collaboration and partnership to drive progress and innovation. The addition of Thuthuka Harness Solutions, Stealth Tactical & Arms, and Black Eagle Aviation Services underscores our commitment to fostering a dynamic and inclusive network where expertise thrive, ideas flourish, and partnerships flourish.

As we extend our warmest welcome to our new members, we also express our gratitude to all existing members for their continued support and dedication. Together, we form a strong and vibrant community poised to tackle the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow.

We encourage all members to connect with Thuthuka Harness Solutions, Stealth Tactical & Arms, and Black Eagle Aviation Services to explore potential synergies and opportunities for collaboration. By working together, we can achieve remarkable outcomes and drive positive change across industries. Once again, welcome to our new members! We are excited to embark on this journey together and look forward to the great things we will accomplish as part of the AMD family.

The Oceans Economy Conference & Expo 2024: Advancing Maritime Innovation and Security

The **Oceans Economy Conference & Expo 2024**, taking place on May 22nd and 23rd in Cape Town, is the premier gathering for Southern Africa's maritime industry. Bringing together leaders from commercial and defence sectors, the event covers a wide array of topics, including transport, logistics, offshore cutting-edge technologies and forge industry connections during the two-day event, culminating in a networking cocktail function.

Anticipation is high for the event, which promises to drive discussions on new maritime technologies and strategies for safeguarding South Africa's maritime assets. With themes ranging from fishing and environmental affairs to naval strategies and sea rescue, the conference aims to propel innovation and ensure the sustainable development of maritime resources.

One of the key features of the expo is its exhibition component, offering exhibitors an invaluable opportunity to showcase their

capabilities. With a diverse audience of industry professionals and decision-makers, exhibitors can spotlight their latest innovations, products, and services. This aspect of the expo serves as a platform for companies to demonstrate their expertise and engage with potential clients and partners, further enhancing collaboration and driving advancements in the maritime sector.

As the date approaches, stakeholders eagerly await the opportunity to contribute to shaping the future of the region's maritime industry. With its comprehensive agenda and networking opportunities, the **Oceans Economy Conference & Expo 2024** is poised to be a catalyst for maritime innovation and security in Southern Africa.

22-23 MAY
CAPE TOWN



Aerospace Indaba 2024: Uniting Forces for Technological Advancement

In a bid to foster collaboration and innovation within the aerospace sector, the **South African Air Force (SAAF)** has taken the initiative to convene the Aerospace Indaba 2024. Scheduled to take place in July, this event marks a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to strengthen ties between the Air Force and industry players.

The Aerospace Indaba, organised with the assistance of the Aerospace, Maritime, and Defence Industries Association of South Africa (AMD), aims to provide a platform for companies within the aerospace sector to showcase their technological capabilities to the SAAF.

Objectives of the Aerospace Indaba:

- I. Understanding SADI Capabilities:** One of the primary objectives of the Aerospace Indaba is for the SAAF to gain a comprehensive understanding of the capabilities within the South African Defence Industry (SADI) that can support its diverse requirements. By exploring the technological advancements and expertise present within the industry, the SAAF aims to identify potential partners and resources to enhance its operational capabilities.
- II. Addressing Challenges:** Additionally, the SAAF intends to leverage the Aerospace Indaba as a platform to communicate and share the challenges it faces with the broader aerospace community. By fostering open dialogue and collaboration, the SAAF seeks to collectively brainstorm solutions and strategies to overcome these challenges, thereby driving innovation and progress within the sector.

Collaboration with Industry:

The collaboration between the SAAF and industry underscores the importance of public-private partnerships in driving technological advancement and national security. Recognising the significance of industry engagement, the SAAF actively

solicited assistance from the AMD to organise the Aerospace Indaba. This collaborative effort not only demonstrates a commitment to mutual cooperation but also highlights the shared responsibility of both parties in advancing aerospace capabilities for the benefit of the nation.

Proactive Engagement and Influence:

Upon engaging with the Chief of the South African Air Force, the defence industry was encouraged to actively participate in shaping the context and structure of the Aerospace Indaba. This proactive approach reflects a strategic effort to ensure that the event aligns with the objectives and priorities of both the SAAF and the broader aerospace industry. By involving industry representatives in the planning process, the SAAF aims to create a conducive environment for productive discussions and meaningful outcomes.

AAD2024 Build-Up Event:

The Aerospace Indaba holds particular significance as a build-up event to the Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) 2024 exhibition scheduled for later in the year. While AAD typically serves as a premier showcase for aerospace and defence technologies, the Aerospace Indaba offers a unique opportunity for focused engagement and collaboration without the distractions of a large-scale exhibition. This targeted approach allows for deeper exploration of key issues and facilitates more meaningful interactions between stakeholders.

The Aerospace Indaba 2024 represents a crucial moment for the aerospace sector in South Africa, bringing together the South African Air Force and industry leaders in a collaborative effort to drive technological innovation and address shared challenges. By fostering open dialogue, understanding capabilities, and proactively engaging with stakeholders, the Aerospace Indaba aims to lay the foundation for future advancements in aerospace technology and strengthen the bonds between the Air force and industry. As the event approaches, anticipation mounts for what promises to be a dynamic and impactful gathering of minds dedicated to shaping the future of aerospace in South Africa.

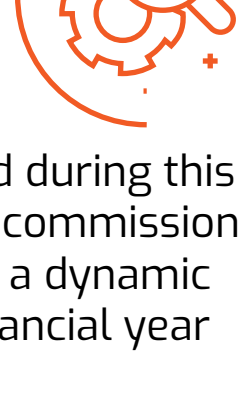
Reflecting on SAAMDEC's Financial Year: A Journey of Challenges and Opportunities



As the financial year comes to a close for the South African Aerospace Maritime & Defence Export Council (SAAMDEC), it's a fitting time to reflect on the accomplishments, challenges, and opportunities encountered over the past year. From navigating global economic uncertainties to embracing technological advancements, SAAMDEC has undoubtedly been on a transformative journey.

Milestones, Achievements, and Future Outlook

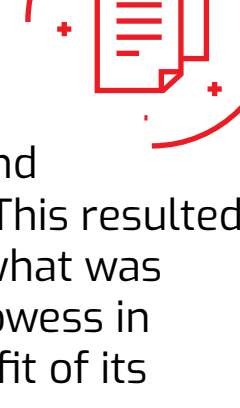
As the South African Aerospace Maritime & Defence Industries Association (SAAMDEC) concludes its 2023/24 financial year, it's a momentous occasion to reflect on the notable milestones, successes, and challenges encountered during this period. From an increase in activities to successful commissions and conferences, SAAMDEC has navigated through a dynamic landscape, setting the stage for an exciting new financial year ahead.



Milestones and Achievements

The past year witnessed a significant surge in activities, marked by a rise in Defence Committees (DefComs) and conferences organised by SAAMDEC. Notably, the association received commissions from two prestigious events - IDEF and DSEI - which bolstered the Export Council Income. This resulted in a remarkable doubling of income compared to what was originally budgeted, demonstrating SAAMDEC's prowess in leveraging international opportunities for the benefit of its members.

Furthermore, the completion of the South African Defence Industry (SADI) Task Team's work was a pivotal achievement. The recommendations put forth by the Task Team are poised to drive meaningful changes and enhancements within the industry, setting the stage for future growth and competitiveness.



Moreover, SAAMDEC successfully coordinated the South African National Export at three prestigious international shows - DSEI, IDEX, and IDEF. These endeavours not only showcased South Africa's capabilities on a global stage but also facilitated valuable networking and business opportunities for local industry players.

The NCACC workshop held on the **27th of June 2023** was another significant achievement, providing a platform to discuss proposed amendments to the National Conventional Arms Control Committee (NCACC) Act. This engagement highlights SAAMDEC's proactive approach to addressing regulatory issues and advocating for policy reforms that support industry growth and compliance.

Looking Ahead to the New Financial Year 2024/25

As SAAMDEC embarks on the new financial year, there are several exciting initiatives and events on the horizon:

- The association is actively pursuing a larger matching grant from the Department of Trade, Industry, and Competition (dtic), which, if successful, will provide additional resources to support industry development initiatives.
- SAAMDEC will participate in and place a special focus on the Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) 2024 exhibition, leveraging this platform to foster a breeding ground for conducive networking amongst stakeholders.
- The Aerospace Indaba scheduled for July 2024 will provide a forum for industry stakeholders to discuss emerging trends, opportunities, and challenges facing the sector.
- A National Security and Public Safety Town Hall is planned to address critical issues related to homeland security and public safety, facilitating dialogue between government, industry, and civil society.
- The Oceans Economy Conference scheduled for 22nd and 23rd May will explore opportunities for collaboration and investment in maritime industries, aligning with South Africa's strategic focus on harnessing the potential of its ocean resources.
- SAAMDEC's Annual General Meeting, slated for the 13th of June 2024, will provide an opportunity for members to review the Export Council's performance and chart the course for the year ahead.

Conclusion

As SAAMDEC reflects on the achievements and challenges of the past financial year, there is a sense of optimism and anticipation for the opportunities that lie ahead. By building on its successes, fostering collaboration, and advocating for industry-friendly policies, the association is well-positioned to drive growth, innovation, and competitiveness within South Africa's aerospace, maritime, and defence sectors in the coming year and beyond.

FEATURE

AMD Whistle-Blowing Channel

We wish to inform you about the introduction of a new "Whistle-Blowing Channel". Reports and concerns related to any whistleblowing matters can be directed to the Chairperson of the AMD Risk and Audit Committee, **Mr Marcus Capuzzimati** at marcus.capuzzimati@fuchs.co.za. Though we have not yet received any reports through this channel, it is crucial to emphasise the significance of this mechanism in fostering transparency and accountability within our association. The establishment of the Whistle-Blowing Channel underscores our commitment to providing a secure avenue for individuals to raise concerns and contribute to maintaining the highest ethical standards in our operations.

