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CSIR's aerospace and defence capabilities on display at Africa Aerospace and Defence show

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) will put its research and technological development prowess in the area of defence, space technologies and related manufacturing and information communications technologies on display at this year's Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) show. The event is held at the Air Force Base Ysterplaat in Cape Town, from 17 – 21 September.

AAD is Africa's largest aerospace, defence and security exhibition and it features three trade days and two public days.

Andre Nepgen, executive director of CSIR Defence, Peace, Safety and Security, ahead of the AAD, said, "By taking part in AAD 2008, the CSIR has the opportunity to showcase its capabilities, success stories and current research projects to government officials, local and international industry leaders, and also to the general public.

The CSIR will display, among others, two unmanned aerial vehicle models, a flight simulator (man-in-the-loop simulations), and the Cyclone camera – a long range day and night camera that is fully digital, remote-controlled and boasts precision zoom with a range of up to 30 km.

According to Nepgen, 28 foreign delegates have – to date - made appointments to visit the CSIR stand, "of these, 13 are at ministerial level from Brazil, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Turkey, Algeria, Libya, Guinea Bissau, Zimbabwe, Tunisia and Singapore."

The exhibition is an innovative and expanded showcase for local, regional and global exhibitors who supply civil, military and security products, systems, components and services to customers in Africa and around the world.

The CSIR has been actively engaging with international industries and research entities and the exhibition offers the opportunity to reinforce, renew and forge new links with current and potential international partners, says Nepgen. “The CSIR is also actively engaging on a number of events taking place around the exhibition and we will be presenting three papers and a keynote address at the Department of Science and Technology-sponsored South African International Aerospace symposium, which takes place two days prior to the exhibition.”

The CSIR is supporting the youth development programme that forms part of the exhibition and is co-organiser of the aerospace, maritime, defence and unmanned aerial vehicle symposium taking place on 18 September at the exhibition.

“These activities ensure that the CSIR maintains and strengthens its links with both industry and government stakeholders,” he says, adding, “This year’s event marks the third time the CSIR exhibits at AAD. In 2006, the CSIR stand attracted a large number of visitors from all walks of life.”

“We were overwhelmed by visitors wanting to know more about the CSIR,” says Nepgen, adding that he is expecting more people this year. “AAD 2008 provides a unique opportunity for industry and government to get to grips with the opportunities unfolding on the African continent, particularly as South African industry joins hands with its international partners.”

AAD 2008 also coincides with the South African government’s strategy for strengthening, growing and forging worldwide alliances for its domestic aerospace, air transport, maritime, land systems, security and space industries.

The exhibition is organised by the SA Aerospace Maritime and Defence Industries Association, the Commercial Aviation Association of South Africa, the South African Air Force and Armscor.

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NOTE:

The CSIR (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research) is one of the leading R&D, technology and innovation institutions in Africa, with a track record spanning over 60 years. Structured to manage the entire research and innovation value chain, the CSIR strives for excellence in all its endeavours in order to improve the quality of life of South Africa's people and to increase the global competitiveness of South African industry. See www.csir.co.za or contact tel 012-841-2000. The CSIR - our future through science

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'Some of us are born with the ability to sniff out the fire where others only see the smoke'

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