

Monthly Newsletter

South African Aerospace, Maritime and Defence Industries Association



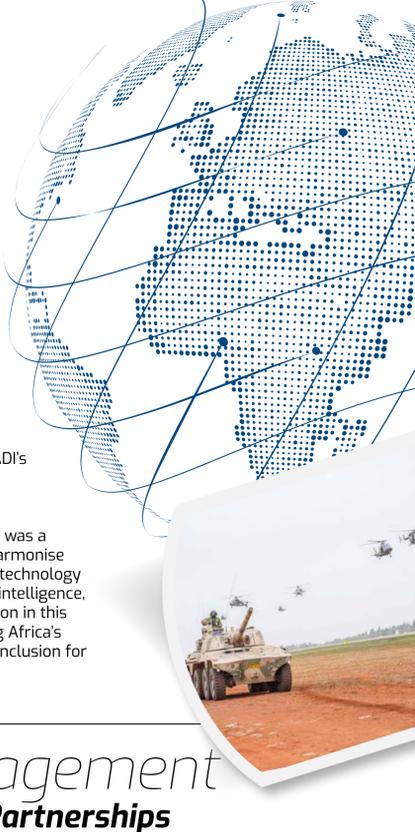
SADI Achievements in 2024: A Year of Growth, Innovation and Collaboration

The South African Defence Industry (SADI) has marked 2024 as a year of extraordinary accomplishments, characterised by strengthened partnerships, groundbreaking innovation and a commitment to national and global security.

Strengthened Global Partnerships

A key outcome of the BRICS Business Council 2024 was the recognition of the need for AMD to establish a dedicated Aviation Committee to align with the BRICS Aviation Working Group.

Moreover, AMD's inclusion in the Africa Council was a significant achievement. The council aims to harmonise policies across African nations while fostering technology development in critical areas such as artificial intelligence, blockchain and fintech.



Advocacy and Policy Engagement

MOD Engagement: Strengthening Defence Partnerships

This year, the South African Defence Industry (SADI) held a landmark engagement with the Ministry of Defence and Military Veterans at SAAB Grintek Defence.

Parliamentary Briefing: Advocating for the Defence Industry. On the 29th of November, AMD had an opportunity to brief the Joint Standing Committee on Defence (JSCD) on the state of SADI.



Conferences & Other Events

In 2024, key conferences underscored South Africa's focus on innovation and collaboration across aerospace, maritime and border security and sectors.

The inaugural National Security and Safety Townhall in May brought together over 80 stakeholders to address pressing issues in defence, including the defence budget, local procurement, and border management.



Activities and Delegations

Once again, SADI, played host to several international delegations during the year, 2024. These delegations came from across the entire globe, with the African continent leading the pack.

Hosting international delegations proved vital for South Africa's defence sector, as it created opportunities to secure export contracts, establish strategic partnerships and showcase advanced local capabilities.

RSA/Zambia Incoming Defcom. Dates: 7 - 9 March 2024. Overview: Facilitated strategic discussions to strengthen defence cooperation between South Africa and Zambia.

Educational Study Tour by Uganda National Defence College (Uganda People's Defence Force) Dates: 12 - 16 March 2024. Overview: Delegation engaged with SADI on defence sector strategies and shared knowledge for capacity building.

Nigerian Army Visit to SADI Dates: 8 - 12 April 2024. Overview: Delegation explored partnerships and defence industry opportunities.

Tanzania Defence Visit to SADI Date: 19 April 2024. Overview: Focused on strengthening bilateral defence relations.

Nigerian Armed Forces Study Group Visit to SADI Date: 3 May 2024. Overview: Knowledge-sharing session focused on defence strategies and industry insights.

Pakistan Defence Force Visit to SADI Date: 10 May 2024. Overview: Strengthened partnerships through facility tours and discussions.

Cote D'Ivoire Visit to SADI Date: 27 June 2024. Overview: Engaged in dialogue on mutual defence industry opportunities.

Nigerian Armed Forces Study Group Visit to SADI Date: 2 July 2024 (Gauteng). Overview: Continued engagements focusing on defence sector education and collaboration.

Defence Attachés Residing in Ethiopia Met with SADI Date: 5 July 2024 (Cape Town). Overview: Strengthened diplomatic and defence ties between South Africa and Ethiopia.

Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) 2024 Dates: 18 - 22 September 2024. Overview: Served as a premier platform to showcase SADI's innovations and host over 80 global defence delegations.



Leadership and Governance

SADI took significant steps in 2024 to enhance its governance structures. The ongoing process to appoint an Executive Chairperson of Stature reflects AMD's commitment to providing strong leadership and advocacy for the industry.

Additionally, AMD's Strategic Planning Session 2024, held at Kievits Kroon Gauteng Wine Estate, brought together stakeholders to align the association's objectives with South Africa's evolving defence landscape.

Increased Visibility and Membership Growth

One of AMD's key achievements in 2024 has been its enhanced visibility through a robust social media presence, particularly on LinkedIn. The consistent and strategic sharing of AMD's activities, milestones and engagements has not only amplified awareness of the Association's work but also positioned it as a thought leader within the defence sector.

This heightened profile has also contributed to a notable increase in membership. The addition of new members such as Bustuke International, Andrew Technologies, Armormax, Optiflex, Thuthuka Harness Solutions, Stealth Tactical and Arms and Black Eagle Aviation Services reflects the trust and confidence that organisations have in AMD's leadership and expertise.

Special Projects

Sector-to-Sector Engagements In 2024, AMD expanded its reach beyond traditional defence work by engaging with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA). The proposed MOU aimed to address critical infrastructure issues at the municipal level.

Defence Artificial Intelligence Research Unit (DAIRU) The launch of DAIRU at the Military Academy in Saldanha was a major milestone for SADI. This project focuses on developing AI technologies for defence and other industries, pushing the sector into the future of innovation.

MOU on Disaster Management The signing of an MOU on disaster management by the Minister of Defence was another highlight of the year. It formalised the Defence Force's role in managing disasters at all levels of government.

A Bright Future for SADI

The achievements of 2024 have firmly established SADI as a leader in innovation, collaboration and economic impact. By building strong global partnerships, advancing technological research and empowering the next generation of leaders, SADI has laid the foundation for a vibrant and resilient future.

End-of-Year and Festive Message from AMD

As the curtain draws on 2024, we take a moment to reflect on what has truly been a remarkable year for the South African Defence Industry. Together, we have achieved milestones that not only showcase our resilience but also affirm our place as a leader in innovation, collaboration and excellence.

This year, we strengthened international partnerships, expanded our influence on the continent and celebrated the successes of events like AAD2024, which highlighted the very best of South African ingenuity and capability. From the groundbreaking launch of DAIRU to our proactive advocacy efforts and increased member capacity building, 2024 has been a testament to what we can achieve when we work with purpose and unity.

We are immensely grateful to each of you, our members, stakeholders and partners, for your unwavering dedication, determination and vision that continue to drive our industry forward. May this season bring you and your loved one's joy, rest and renewal as we prepare to embrace the opportunities of the year ahead.

Let us step into 2025 with hope, purpose and a shared commitment to building a stronger, more vibrant South African Defence Industry.

From all of us at AMD, we wish you a peaceful holiday season and a prosperous new year filled with growth and success.

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 Risks and Audit Committee at whistleblower@amd.org.za.

