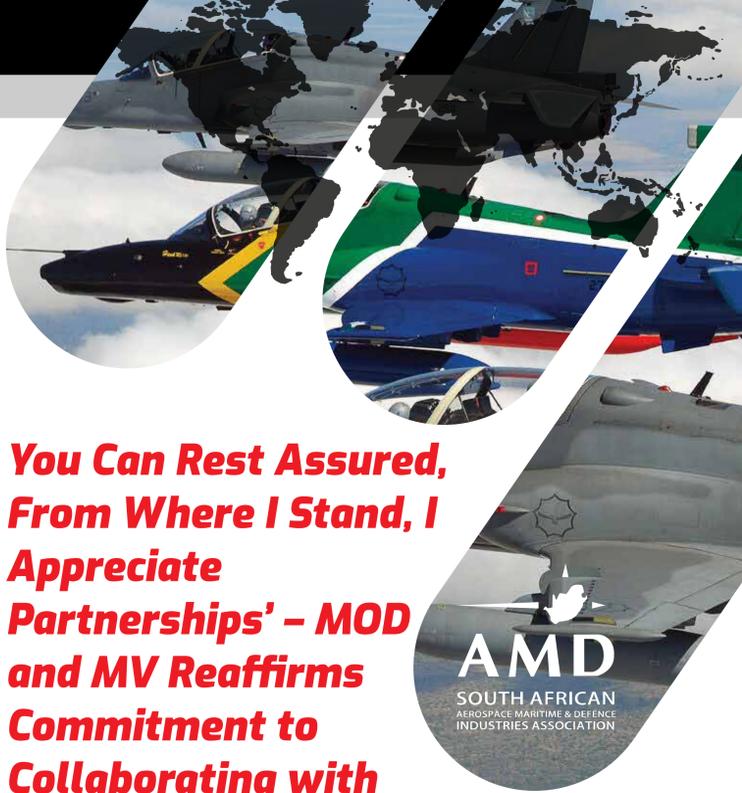


Monthly Newsletter

South African Aerospace, Maritime and Defence Industries Association



You Can Rest Assured, From Where I Stand, I Appreciate Partnerships' – MOD and MV Reaffirms Commitment to Collaborating with SADI

Earlier this week, the South African Defence Industry (SADI) engaged in a vital session with the Ministry of Defence and Military Veterans at the facilities of SAAB Grintek Defence. This engagement served as a powerful platform to strengthen ties, explore synergies and address the pressing challenges facing the defence sector.

The session brought together leaders of industry from across the entire spectrum of the Aerospace and Defence Sector, with leaders of other Industry Associations also present for the event.

Speaking on behalf of Industry, Mr Sandile Ndlovu, Executive Director of AMD, CEO of SAAMDEC, and recently appointed Acting Chairperson of AMD, underscored the critical role of such engagements in establishing a collaborative path for addressing the industry's challenges, including the long-awaited industry Lekgotla. He emphasised the need for concerted efforts and unity to navigate the complexities currently affecting the defence sector.

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Angie Motshekga, echoed the importance of these interactions in her address. She expressed her eagerness to build a stronger relationship with SADI and to explore areas of mutual benefit and support. Emphasising the government's reliance on partnerships, she remarked, "You can rest assured, from where I stand, I appreciate partnerships." Her commitment to fostering collaboration was clear as she highlighted the need for a shared understanding of the challenges and pledged her openness to frequent engagements, including virtual and early morning meetings, to maximize the impact of her tenure.

Acknowledging the ongoing constraints, particularly the shrinking defence budget, the Minister proposed regular follow-up sessions every three months, transitioning to bi-annual engagements as momentum is established. Her vision is to cultivate a robust defence sector that inspires confidence and demonstrates resilience through strategic partnerships.

The session concluded with closing remarks from Dr Mthobisi Zondi, Chairperson of the AMD Innovation and Future Defence Committee, who expressed gratitude to the Minister and all participants for their involvement in this significant event. As a gesture of appreciation, AMD presented the Minister, her deputies, Major General (ret) Bantu Holomisa and Mr Richard Hlophle, and the Acting Secretary for Defence, Dr Thobekile Gamede, with thoughtful tokens of appreciation.



AMD Acting Executive Chairperson

Following a decision taken at the ordinary sitting of the AMD Board Meeting last week (29 th of August 2024), we are pleased to announce that Mr Sandile Ndlovu, the current Executive Director of the South African Aerospace, Maritime and Defence Industry Association (AMD) and CEO of the South African Aerospace Maritime Defence Export Council (SAAMDEC), will also serve as Acting Chairperson of the Association.

Mr Ndlovu's appointment as Acting Executive Chairperson comes at a pivotal time as the Board is currently busy with the process finalising the procedure of appointing the new Chairperson of stature, as per the decision and guidance of the AGM on the 17 th of July 2024. His extensive experience, leadership and commitment to the industry, positions him well to guide and lead AMD through this transitional period, ensuring stability and the continuation of our strategic objectives and goals as an Association.

We are confident in Mr Ndlovu's ability to lead with distinction and stature during this interim phase and we look forward to his continued contributions to advancing AMD and the broader South African Defence Industry (SADI). We appreciate the support and cooperation of all members during this period.



Celebrating a Decade of Excellence: SAAMDEC's 10th Anniversary and Its Impact on the Defence Industry

As the South African Aerospace Maritime and Defence Export Council (SAAMDEC) reaches its 10th anniversary, we reflect on a decade of remarkable achievements and the significant role the organisation has played in shaping the landscape of the South African defence industry. This milestone is not just a celebration of time, but a recognition of the strides made in promoting and supporting South Africa's defence capabilities on the global stage.

SAAMDEC was established with a clear mission: to advance South Africa's defence, aerospace, and maritime industries by facilitating exports, fostering international partnerships and showcasing the country's cutting-edge technology and capabilities. Over the past ten years, SAAMDEC has been instrumental in opening new markets, securing high-profile contracts, and ensuring that South African companies remain competitive in a rapidly evolving global defence environment.

Through strategic collaboration with both government and private sectors, SAAMDEC has successfully positioned South Africa as a key player in the global defence market. The organisation has facilitated countless opportunities for local

companies to demonstrate their expertise, whether it be in advanced weaponry, cybersecurity solutions, or innovative maritime technologies. These efforts have not only boosted the local economy but have also enhanced the country's reputation as a reliable and innovative defence partner.

Significance for the Defence Industry
The 10th anniversary of SAAMDEC is more than just a celebration—it is a testament to the resilience, innovation, and collaborative spirit that defines the South African defence industry. This milestone highlights the importance of continued investment in the sector, particularly in the face of global challenges such as rapidly advancing technology, evolving security threats, and shifting geopolitical landscapes.

For the industry, this celebration serves as a reminder of the critical role that export councils like SAAMDEC play in maintaining the relevance and competitiveness of South Africa's defence capabilities. It underscores the need for ongoing collaboration between the public and private sectors to ensure that the industry can continue to grow, innovate, and contribute to the national security and economic prosperity.

A Milestone Celebration at AAD2024

In recognition of this significant milestone, SAAMDEC will be hosting its 10th anniversary celebration at the AMD hospitality Chalet during the Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) exhibition on **September 20th, 2024**. This event, set against the backdrop of one of the continent's largest defence exhibitions, is a fitting venue to mark the achievements of the past decade and to look forward to the future.

The celebration will bring together key stakeholders from across the defence industry, including government officials, industry leaders, and international partners. It will be an opportunity to reflect on the successes of the past, discuss the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, and reinforce the commitment to advancing South Africa's position in the global defence arena.

Looking Forward
As SAAMDEC embarks on its next decade, the focus will be on building upon the strong foundation that has been established over the past ten years. The organization will continue to advocate for the South African defence industry, fostering new partnerships, exploring emerging markets and ensuring that the industry remains at the forefront of innovation.

The 10th anniversary celebration is not just a reflection of past achievements but a call to action for the future. It is a reminder of the ongoing need for collaboration, innovation and strategic thinking as we navigate the complexities of the modern defence landscape.



The Growing Buzz Around AAD2024 Preparations



As the Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) exhibition draws closer, the excitement and anticipation within the industry are palpable. Set to take place in September 2024, AAD2024 is already generating significant buzz as it promises to be one of the most dynamic and influential events in the global defence calendar.

An Event Like No Other
AAD has long been recognised as Africa's premier defence and aerospace exhibition, attracting participants from across the world. This year's event is particularly special, as it will not only showcase the latest in defence technology but also highlight the renewed focus on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) within the sector. With the SANDF and South African Defence Industry embarking on a new era of collaboration, AAD2024 is set to be a pivotal moment for companies looking to secure their place in this evolving landscape.

Exhibitors and Delegations on the Move
The preparations for AAD2024 are in full swing, with exhibitors from across the globe finalizing their displays and presentations. From cutting-edge technologies in air, land and sea to advancements in cybersecurity and communications, the variety of innovations set to be showcased is generating a buzz across the industry.

International delegations and VIPs are also confirming their participation, ensuring that AAD2024 will be a hub of activity and networking. The event is expected to draw significant attention from key decision-makers, creating unparalleled opportunities for collaboration and partnership.

Anticipation for the Showstoppers
As the event approaches, speculation is rife about the showstoppers that will be on display. From live demonstrations of advanced aircrafts and UAVs to interactive exhibits showcasing the latest in defence technology, AAD2024 is expected to deliver a spectacle that will captivate attendees.

Final Preparations and Last-Minute Opportunities
For those still considering participation, there is a sense of urgency in securing the last available spaces. With the defence sector poised for significant growth, AAD2024 represents a critical opportunity for companies to showcase their capabilities and align themselves with future projects.

The final weeks leading up to AAD2024 are filled with a flurry of activity, as exhibitors, delegates, and organisers put the finishing touches on what promises to be an unforgettable event. The buzz is not just about what will be seen and heard at the exhibition, but about the opportunities that will be created, deals that will be struck and the future that will be shaped.

The excitement surrounding AAD2024 is a clear indication of the event's significance in the defence and aerospace industry. As preparations intensify, the anticipation builds for an event that will not only showcase the best of global defence technology but also set the stage for future collaborations and innovations. AAD2024 is more than an exhibition—it's a gateway to the future of defence.



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 at whistleblower@amd.org.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.

