

Bahrain International Airshow - 21-23 January 2010

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Bahrain's Billion Dollar AirShow - watch the video

The inaugural Bahrain International Airshow, held at the Sakhir air base, has proved to be a resounding success for the aviation industry as a whole and for the Kingdom of Bahrain. The event hosted 40 participating companies, 94 aircraft and visiting delegations from 25 countries. Early indications suggest that deals worth somewhere in the region of one billion dollars were signed at the event with the attending companies from all over the world and thirty thousand visited the public and trade areas over the three days.

Amongst the major deals announced at the show were Yemenia's (Yemen's national carrier) purchase of ten A320 planes from Airbus; Bahrain's purchase of nine Blackhawk-M helicopters from US manufacturer, Sikorsky; Gulf Air's preliminary agreement to lease two Embraer 170 jets; Selex's award of \$15 million contract by the Bahrain Civil Aviation Authority for a primary surveillance radar and two Mode-S secondary surveillance radars at the Bahrain International Airport, Bahrain's talks to purchase two Airbus planes and Boeing's announcement to deliver 1,700 aircraft in the next 20 years to the Middle East.

Further strengthening Bahrain's business and aviation credentials in the region, the UK's Aerospace Defence and Security organisation, A|D|S, has announced they are to choose Bahrain to act as the central hub for the Middle East. And in further news, Gulf Aviation Academy, a wholly owned subsidiary of Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company was launched and will play a key role in the development of Bahrain's air transport training and infrastructure.

Chairman of the Supreme Organising Committee, HH Sheikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa said:

"We are delighted by the results of the first Bahrain International Airshow. The show brought manufacturers and users under the same roof enabling them to do business effectively and uniquely, reflecting Bahrain's status as a regional centre for transport and trade. The strong presence of the leading aerospace and defence manufactures signalled the inaugural show's success and reflected Bahrain's status as a pioneer in the aerospace industry in the Middle East. The airshow is a welcome boost to Bahrain's economy and to its profile as a business centre in the region."