

# Singapore Airshow: 95% of space snapped up

**Big names to sign up for next year's show include Boeing, Airbus**

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THE first-ever Singapore Airshow – to be held in February next year at a new facility near Changi Airport – is well on its way to making an impact.

More than 95 per cent of the 40,000 sq m exhibition space and about 100 chalets – where exhibitors will entertain guests – have already been snapped up.

And work has started on the main exhibition hall and a new six-lane approach road to the site, off Changi Coast Road.

The big boys who have signed up for the Feb 19 to 24 show next year include aircraft makers Boeing and Airbus, engine manufacturers Rolls-Royce and GE, and Bell Helicopter, Dubai Aerospace and Raytheon.

This will be the 14th air show

to be held here, but the first to be organised by Singapore Airshow and Events – a joint venture between the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore and the Defence Science and Technology Agency.

The previous shows were organised by London-based Reed Exhibitions under the Asian Aerospace brand name.

The new show looks set to be a crowd pleaser.

Aerobatics, sorely missed at last year's show, will make a comeback next year.

Mr Jimmy Lau, managing director of Singapore Airshow and Events, told The Straits Times that at least two displays have been planned, including one by Republic of Singapore Air Force F-16s.

The organising team is also moving to address complaints from exhibitors, trade visitors and the public who have bemoaned long queues at registration counters and traffic jams at previous shows.

Technology will speed up registration and security checks, and the new road leading to the site will ease traffic jams.



PHOTO: LIM WU LIANG

**CLEAR VIEWS:** The exhibition hall of the Singapore Airshow will have 72m-long beams to form a sturdy roof structure, doing away with the need for supporting pillars in between and giving the hall a more open feel. About 30 per cent of the construction work has been completed.

A public carpark with around 2,000 spaces will also be constructed for visitors.

When The Straits Times visited the site recently, about 30 per cent of the construction work had already been completed.

Mr Chng Beng Guan, the project's key architect, said that 72m-long beams will be used to form a sturdy roof structure at the exhibition hall – doing away with the need for supporting pillars in between.

This will give the hall a more open feel.

Apart from the usual air show exhibits such as aircraft, engines and avionics, the biennial Singapore Airshow will also have several other highlights.

For instance, space enthusiasts can look forward to the Global Space and Technology Convention (GSTC) – one of at least four conferences to be held during the show.

Organised with the support of

the Singapore Space and Technology Association (SSTA), the conference will feature displays showing off the latest in space engineering and design.

Mr Peter H. Diamandis, chairman of United States-based Rocket Racing League, said on SSTA's website that Asia "will be one of the most critical markets for the future personal spacecraft industry".

He added: "Singapore is perfectly positioned to be a gateway

– with GSTC as a key platform – for this industry to enter this region."

Singapore Airshow and Events is also planning to get airline representatives and airport and civil aviation authorities from the region to meet in a special session to talk about issues of common interest.

The session will be organised jointly with the International Air Transport Association, a grouping of around 250 airlines.

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