

Marrakech Airshow 2026: Consolidating Morocco's Aerospace and Defense Leadership

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Under the High Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, the eighth edition of the Marrakech Airshow concluded with resounding success, gathering nearly 200 exhibitors from 27 countries and over 60 official delegations, including 27 from Africa. Held from October 7 to 10 at the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces Air Base, the event reaffirmed Morocco's strategic position as a pivotal hub for industrial integration, international cooperation, and technological development across global aerospace and defense value chains.

A central outcome of this landmark edition was the signing of 26 strategic agreements. Covering advanced manufacturing, autonomous systems, defense technology, and sustainable aviation, these commitments highlight the airshow's vital role in facilitating high-level partnerships, fostering new industrial projects, and strengthening ties between major global primes and Moroccan suppliers.

Key industrial investments and strategic partnerships announced during the four-day event include:

- **Safran Oil Systems Investment:** A project of approximately €14.3 million (US\$16.26 million) dedicated to manufacturing aircraft engine oil and fluid system components in Morocco, creating 100 direct jobs and expanding national capabilities.
- **Africa Centre for Manufacturing Excellence (ACME):** A collaborative hub bringing together industry giants such as Boeing, Airbus, Lockheed Martin, Safran, OCP, and UM6P to advance aerospace technologies and build industrial expertise across Africa.
- **Green Sky Capital Partnership:** A landmark agreement to establish Morocco's first sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) production facility, featuring an annual capacity of 200,000 tonnes and an investment of up to €404 million (US\$450 million), creating up to 4,000 jobs.
- **Technological & Defense Alliances:** Key agreements including Harmattan AI to manufacture counter-drone technologies locally (projected to generate 1,000 jobs), collaborative initiatives with Korea Aerospace Industries (KAI), and expanded local sourcing programs championed by Royal Air Maroc.

The progress of Morocco's aerospace sector is increasingly defined by its capacity to develop engineering competencies, master complex technical processes, and engage directly in design and innovation. Local sourcing serves as a primary driver of this growth, connecting the demands of tier-one global manufacturers with domestic suppliers, deeply supported by continuous skills development and training programs for young talent.

As noted by Mr. Taoufiq Moucharraf, President of ASSAD, the Marrakech Airshow functions as a powerful, collaborative platform where public authorities, private stakeholders, and international leaders converge to translate shared ambitions into high-impact projects.



Post-Show Briefs