

# more than \$700m deals



A Gulf Air Boeing B787-900 aircraft performs air manoeuvres during the 2018 Bahrain International Airshow

## BIAS a unique platform, says SAMI's Dr Schwer



SAMI's pavilion at the show

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As the air show got off to a flying start yesterday, Saudi Military Industries Company also known as SAMI said the show is providing a unique platform for meeting decision-makers and industry leaders in aviation and military industries from all over the world.

"Our participation in the Bahrain International Air Show is aimed at highlighting SAMI's growing military capabilities and showcasing our achievements in enhancing self-sufficiency in defence capabilities," Dr Andreas Schwer, Chief Executive Officer of SAMI said.

SAMI, Dr Schwer said, is keen on taking advantage of the unique opportunities offered by the show and the promising investment prospects in Saudi Arabia's booming military industries in order to support the Kingdom's vision of localizing over 50 per cent of military equipment spending by 2030.

Dr Schwer said the air show has ce-

mented its reputation as an unparalleled venue to exchange ideas and expertise on challenges and opportunities in these two vital sectors.

SAMI has earlier announced the launch of its joint venture 'SAMI Navantia Naval Industries' with Navantia S.A. to design and build five Avante 2200 corvettes with Combat Management System for the Ministry of Defense of Saudi Arabia.

His Highness Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Personal Representative of His Majesty the King and Chairman of the Supreme Organizing Committee of BIAS, visited SAMI's pavilion at the show and was briefed on the company's achievements and military services in four key areas, including Aeronautics, Land Systems, Weapons and Missiles, and Defense Electronics.

Bahrain International Air Show (BIAS), now in its fifth edition, runs from 14-16 November 2018 at the Sakhir Air Base in southern Bahrain.



A Turkish TAI T625 helicopter developed by Turkish Aerospace Industries during the 2018 Bahrain International Airshow (BIAS) at the Sakhir Airbase

## Gulf Air completes sale, leaseback of six A320neos



Gulf Air and SMBC Aviation Capital officials

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Gulf Air, and SMBC Aviation Capital, one of the world's largest aircraft leasing companies, have announced a six-aircraft agreement for the purchase and leaseback of six Airbus A320neo aircraft.

This is SMBC Aviation Capital's first deal with Gulf Air and follows a competitive tender process.

Delivery of Gulf Air's Airbus A320neo aircraft commenced from August 2018. The airline currently serves all its destinations with a combination wide and narrow body fleet and has orders for 39 new Boeing and Airbus aircraft with delivery having commenced in early 2018.

Gulf Air's incoming fleet will see

by end-2018 the arrival of 5 Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners in addition to 1 Airbus A320neo aircraft. Alongside

**These aircraft will allow us to greatly enhance our fleet, enabling us to deliver operational efficiency and an upgraded customer experience**

KRESIMIR KUCKO

GULF AIR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

this, in 2018 the airline continued to enhance its product and service offering, launched six new destinations and expanded its network to serve 47 cities in 26 countries.

Gulf Air Chief Executive Officer, Kresimir Kucko said, "These aircraft will allow us to greatly enhance our fleet, enabling us to deliver operational efficiency and an upgraded customer experience."

Peter Barrett, CEO, SMBC Aviation Capital added, "As a new customer and our first entry into the Kingdom of Bahrain, we look forward to working alongside Gulf Air for the coming years."

SMBC Aviation Capital currently has 20 A320neos in its portfolio and an order book of 129 A320neos.

## New Air Traffic Control Center on way

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The Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications (MTT) has announced the signing of a BD2.4 million contract on the sideline of the Bahrain International Airshow 2018 for the construction of the new Air Traffic Control Center.

The agreement was signed by Kamal Ahmed, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications, and Esam bin Abdulla



The deal signing

Khalaf, Minister of Works, Municipalities Affairs, and Urban Planning with Jameel Hussain Ebrahim, CEO of Al Jameel Construction SPC.

On this occasion, Kamal Ahmed said, "The new air traffic control centre is an extension of our endeavours to further enhance air navigation services."

The new centre, which will cover a surface area of 2,650 sqm, will include a main area that is fully equipped with the latest air traffic management

systems and covers an area of 676 sqm.

The project, which will be supervised by the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs, and Urban Planning, is expected to be completed by end of 2020 and aims to cater for the air traffic needs until 2035.

It is worth noting that Bahrain's air traffic control centre provides services to almost 600,000 flights flying within Bahrain's Flight Information Region annually.