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# Dubai Airshow 2025: The future is here



The 19th edition of Dubai Airshow - a meeting point for Aerospace, Space And Defense Ecosystem - hosted over 1,500 exhibitors (21 country pavilions), 148,000+ attendees, 200+ aircrafts on display (ranging from commercial jets and private planes to advanced military assets, UAVs, eVTOL aircraft) including start-ups and 40 Indian exhibitors, reports our Editor, **Chandragupta Amritkar**

The largest ever edition of Dubai Airshow under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, VP and PM of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai opened with 8,000 square meters of new exhibition space to accommodate demand, industry leaders are convening in Dubai to define the future of aerospace, space, and defence. From major fleet expansions to cutting-edge technology showcases, the event delivered defining moments that propel aerospace forward.

Tim Hawes, MD, Informa Markets said: "Dubai Airshow 2025 opened with an electrifying start, showcasing the remarkable growth and cutting-edge innovation driving the aerospace industry forward. This year's edition is our most ambitious yet, offering a global platform for next-generation technologies that enhance efficiency, sustainability, and advanced mobility. Day one delivered major orders, and we expect even more transformative announcements in the coming days as industry leaders gather in Dubai to shape the future of aerospace."

EDGE Group utilised the platform as an opportunity to launch 42 new products and solutions, delivering one of the most ambitious launches in its history. EDGE Group has also signed numerous agreements, including MoU's with Korea Aerospace Industries (KAI) to explore future collaboration across aerospace, defence, and related high-technology sectors, as well as with L3Harris Technologies to develop innovative solutions that will contribute to the UAE's growing defense capabilities.

Tawazun Council, representing the UAE Ministry of Defence and Abu Dhabi Police, announced 20 major contracts totaling AED 18.016 billion during the first three days of Dubai Airshow 2025. These agreements, signed with leading local and international industry players, underscore the UAE's commitment to strengthening its defence ecosystem and fostering private-sector participation in developing innovative, sustainable solutions for the future of national security.

Airbus had a great outing with adding new customers, partnerships and collaborations. Gabriel Semelas, President, Airbus Africa and Middle East, comments: "Dubai Airshow

is always an exceptional platform for industry innovation and collaboration, uniting the pioneers shaping the future of aerospace. This year continued that momentum, and we're proud to have signed landmark agreements – such as welcoming flydubai and Buraq Air as new customers and seeing Etihad Airways become the latest A330neo customer, while expanding its A350 fleet. We also secured new partnerships and extended our long-standing collaborations with Strata and Mubadala, reflecting the UAE's growing role in the global aerospace supply chain. As the Middle East continues to witness major growth and investment, the Airshow remains the ideal place to see this transformation in action."

Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, chairman and CEO of Emirates Airline said that Emirates airline would be more than happy to add more seats to Indian destinations.

The General Directorate of Identity and Foreigners Affairs (GDRFA) – Dubai issued a special stamp on the passports of participating delegates and visitors from abroad to Dubai Airshow 2025.

This year night sessions were introduced featuring a Drone Show and Airshow After Dark. The other point of interest was the Space Pavilion along with a two-day Space Conference.





### Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) Pavilion

AAM took centre stage as visitors chance to explore electric aircraft and the future of urban transportation. For the first time, eVTOL aircraft — electric vertical take-off and landing models were on flying display. There were 4 eVTOL models

that could redefine urban travel. The eVTOL flying display was led by Joby Aviation's revolutionary aircraft. The first eVTOL is scheduled to be launched for commercial passengers to travel within Dubai city by Dec 2026.

And probably it's the next revolution in travel and hospitality industry as well as for the business community to solve travel woes. For hospitals it can be a boon and a big relief for patients and their relatives.

#### Starlink Wi-Fi on airlines is expanding its network

During Dubai Airshow Emirates airline created waves when it announced that it will deploy Starlink WiFi across its entire in-service fleet, comprising 232 aircraft in the next two years, beginning with Boeing 777 aircraft, at the conclusion of the show. The Starlink WiFi service will be free for all Emirates customers, across all cabins on Starlink-equipped aircraft, with one-click access that requires no payment or special Skywards membership.

The Boeing 777-300ER was on display at the Dubai Airshow so that visitors could experience high-speed connectivity first-hand while on the ground.

Starlink is Elon Musk's satellite internet service, operated by his company SpaceX providing a simple 'one-click-access' to passengers.

Starlink connectivity will enable Emirates customers to stream content, game, make calls, work, and browse social media throughout their journey on both seatback screens and personal devices simultaneously. This seamless integration delivers connected experiences at scale across all cabin classes. The airline will fit-out approximately 14 aircraft per month with Starlink, with installation on the Airbus A380 fleet commencing in February 2026.



Sir Tim Clark, President Emirates Airline said: "Partnering with Starlink is another defining moment in our continuous commitment to ensuring our customers 'fly better'. We're introducing the world's fastest Wi-Fi, elevating what passengers can expect from inflight connectivity, like seamless productivity, real-time communication with loved ones, and uninterrupted connection to their digital lives."

Chad Gibbs, VP of Starlink Business Operations, SpaceX, said: "With Starlink onboard your Emirates flight, you'll be able to stream, game, and have seamless video calls, just as you can do on the ground. We're excited to transform Emirates' travel experience and support the rapid installation of Starlink while maintaining focus on delivering overall quality of service."

It's also been shown that Wi-Fi speeds from in-flight Starlink internet are actually faster than you might get at home. If that seems counterintuitive, consider that Starlink's fleet of 7,000 low-Earth orbit satellites are a lot closer to your in-flight connection than the 22,000 miles that separate your connection at home with geostationary satellites.

Delivering download speeds of 100–250 Mbps (with peaks up to 450 Mbps), upload speeds of up to 10-25 mbps, and latency under 99 ms, Starlink enables all passengers to enjoy activities such as

#### Several orders and deals were announced during the show

- A multi-billion-dollar commercial order from Emirates - an order for 65 Boeing 777-9 aircraft, powered by GE 9X engines, worth US\$ 38 billion.
- Ethiopian Airlines committed to purchase 11 additional 737 MAX jets enabling the airline to grow its regional and international networks and expand its Addis Ababa hub.
- Boeing and TAAG Angola Airlines announced an agreement to extend training programs for pilots.
- Airbus Helicopters welcomed Bristow Group, a global leader in innovative and sustainable vertical flight solutions, as the newest operator of the Airbus H160. It will introduce up to five H160s into its fleet for offshore energy missions across Africa.
- The UAE's Tawazun council also announced eight deals totalling AED 3.766 billion, including contracts signed with Global Air Navigation Services (GANS), GAL, International Golden Group (IGG), Maximus Air, and Abu Dhabi Shipping Agency LLC (ADSA).
- flydubai placed a new order for 60 GEnx-1B engines from GE Aerospace to support its upcoming fleet of 30 Boeing 787-9 aircraft.
- flydubai and Airbus signed a landmark agreement to purchase 150 A321neo aircraft, with options for 100 more, marking the first time the airline has placed an order with Airbus. The agreement is valued at US\$ 24 billion, and deliveries will start in 2031.
- Etihad Airways placed an order for six A330-900s – making it the latest A330neo customer – along with seven additional A350-1000 aircraft and three A350F.
- Gulf Air announced an order for 15 Boeing 787 Dreamliners
- AerCap announced that South African low-cost carrier FlySafair signed a lease agreement for five Boeing 737 family jets, three 737 MAX and two 737NG.

video streaming, video calls, VPN access, and online gaming—simultaneously.

Starlink's optical space lasers transmit data throughout the Starlink constellation, providing continuous service in areas far from SpaceX ground stations - providing coverage for your flights over the open ocean and in polar regions.

Starlink is spreading its wings. A growing number of airlines are using Starlink Wi-Fi, including Hawaiian Airlines, United Airlines, WestJet, and Qatar Airways. Other airlines that are rolling out or have announced plans to use Starlink include Emirates, British Airways, Air France, SAS, Virgin Atlantic, China Airlines etc.

### Al Maktoum International Airport to be the world's largest airport

Al Maktoum International Airport will be the world's largest airport by scale, passenger volume – finally to serve upto 260 million travellers annually and being tech savvy embracing AI, biometrics as well as sustainability technologies.

The Dubai Airshow showcased a full-scale replica of Al Maktoum International Airport and many were in awe at the diverse range of residential zones, business sectors, cultural institutions, hotels, restaurants hospitals etc in southwest Dubai - Dubai World Central (DWC).

The airport expansion will serve 150 million passengers annually by 2032, with a final capacity of 260 million travellers. Plans are afoot to use advanced engineering, biometric processing, AI-based security screening, have sustainable design, integrate transport systems including Etihad Rail.

DWC is expected to be five times the size of the existing Dubai International Airport (DXB) with five parallel runways and an astonishing 400 aircraft gates. But the best part is that Etihad Rail (UAE's national railway project) will have a scheduled stop at Al Maktoum International Airport. Etihad Rail will connect key cities - Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, Fujairah, Al

Ain, Ruwais, Al Mirfa, Al Dhaid, Ghuweifat (Saudi Arabia), and Sohar (Oman).

A major international boost to Dubai's aviation future was announced today at Dubai Airshow 2025 as the UK Export Finance (UKEF) issued a US\$3.5 billion Expression of Interest letter to support participation of UK's businesses in the US\$35 billion expansion of Al Maktoum International.

Emirates airline will also invest \$10-12 billion (Dh36.7-Dh44 billion) in Al Maktoum International Airport. Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, chairman and CEO of Emirates Airline is confident that it will be smooth sailing in terms of funding the transition from Dubai International Airport to Al Maktoum International Airport by 2032.

Paul Griffiths, CEO of Dubai Airports said, "The Al Maktoum International Airport expansion project represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to rethink how an airport should work and how the journey of the future should feel."

The expansion of Al Maktoum International Airport will deliver an airport designed for the next 50 years of aviation growth.



UK Minister for Trade Sir Chris Bryant, Khalifa Al Zaffin, executive chairman of the Dubai Aviation City Corporation and Dubai Airports CEO Paul Griffiths

*Dubai Airshow returns from 15-19 November 2027 at DWC, Dubai*

## Christmas cake mixing ceremony @ Gokulam Park Sabari OMR

The cake mixing ceremony in hotels is a festive, pre-Christmas ritual. This traditional ritual is fast turning into a joyous event involving fun, social, and media-friendly gathering for hotels to create festive cheer and community bonding. It was no different at Gokulam Park Sabari OMR that hosted the traditional Christmas cake mixing ceremony where chefs, invited guests and media were made to don Santa hats and mix ingredients for Christmas cakes.

Hosted by the groups MD, Baiju Gopalan, and co-ordinated by the Cluster GM, Anand Ramachandran and Corporate Chef Arul Selvan the group invited dignitaries from the city, police force, hospitality professionals, corporate heads, principals and heads of colleges and universities, editors and TV channel heads.

The hotel had a wonderful Christmas décor and all of us relished cake mixing ceremony with the Santa uniform and caps. Kids enjoyed the event and a small award ceremony at the hands of Baiju Gopalan was



also held. Post that all the guests were invited to a special high tea prepared by the corporate chef that included snacks, desserts, wines, and tea & coffee.

Gokulam group that runs 25 hotels in southern India holds this festive ritual annually across its select properties.