



MEDIA RELEASE

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Arm Scor strengthens support to keep South African Air Force in the skies

The Armaments Corporation of South Africa (Arm Scor) has taken a significant step towards strengthening the operational readiness of the South African Air Force (SAAF) through the appointment of service providers to maintain and service its critical prime mission equipment.

The importance of this support was demonstrated during the recently concluded Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) 2026 exhibition where SAAF aircrafts formed a central part of the aerial displays. A strong line-up comprised Hawks, GripenS, C-130 and Rooivalk attack helicopter demonstrated the capability and professionalism of SAAF, providing a visible demonstration of the importance of maintaining and sustaining the air force's operational equipment.

Reflecting on this milestone, Advocate Solomzi Mbada, CEO – Arm Scor said the organisation is committed to ensuring that the SAAF receives the support it requires to fulfil its mandate. "For Arm Scor, keeping the South African Air Force in the skies is not simply about maintaining aircraft. It is about sustaining national capability. We are very much aware that every aircraft that is returned to service contributes to the ability of the SAAF to execute its constitutional mandate and to safeguard our country's airspace and national interests," he said.

Arm Scor's role extends beyond the procurement of equipment. As the acquisition agency for the Department of Defence and other organs of state, the organisation provides the armed forces with state-of-the-art defence matériel, delivering innovative defence solutions efficiently and effectively. The organisation's aeronautical capabilities include technical and programme-management support for airborne platforms, including fighter aircraft, transport aircraft and helicopters.

According to Adv. Mbada the current intervention must be viewed as part of a broader commitment to rebuilding sustainable aircraft availability. “This is a turning point in our efforts to revitalise and strengthen the sustainability of the SAAF’s prime mission equipment. We are determined to move beyond short-term interventions and build a support environment that enables predictable maintenance, timely repairs and improved aircraft availability,” emphasised Adv. Mbada.

Armcor commits to continue working closely with the SAAF and appointed service providers to monitor the execution of maintenance programmes, facilitate the delivery of required services and support the recovery and sustainment of critical capabilities. The organisation also views the maintenance and sustainment environment as an opportunity to strengthen the South African defence industrial base by leveraging local technical expertise, developing industrial capability and creating opportunities for South African companies to participate in defence support programmes.

“Keeping the SAAF in the skies requires a whole ecosystem of capability. It requires skilled people, responsive industry, effective acquisition processes, reliable supply chains, funding, technology and strong partnerships. Armcor has a responsibility to bring these elements together and ensure that the support provided translates into real operational capability,” concluded Adv. Mbada.

Caption 1: Display of South African Air Force prime mission equipment at the Africa Aerospace and Defence 2026 exhibition demonstrates Armcor’s commitments to keeping members of the South African Air Force in the skies.

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