

ILA Berlin 2018
25 - 29 April 2018, Berlin ExpoCenter Airport



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PRESS RELEASE

Closing Report

Successful conclusion to this leading innovation fair

ILA 2018 gave a significant impetus to the global aerospace industry

About 180,000 visitors experienced all the fascination of aviation and space flight – 200 aircraft on the ground in the air, and spacecraft too

Berlin, 29 April 2018 – With its focus on the future and on new technical developments, the ILA Berlin continues to evolve as a leading trade show for innovations in the aerospace industry. From 25 to 29 April some 1,100 exhibitors from 41 countries presented a wide spectrum of their latest high-tech products, along with research and development projects at this display featuring all aspects of business in the global aviation and space industries. The partner country of the ILA 2018 was France. This five day event attracted about 180,000 trade visitors and members of the public to the 250,000 square-metre Berlin ExpoCenter Airport.

Volker Thum, Chief Executive of the BDLI, reported outstanding results: “This ILA was the ‘best ILA ever’. We have continued to develop the world’s oldest aviation and space exhibition with conspicuous success, making it our industry’s leading trade show for innovation. The bookings received for the exhibition and conferences set new records and provide clear proof that our new concept for the ILA as a platform for innovations, ideas for the future and technical developments has clearly demonstrated its effectiveness, attracting visitors and exhibitors from all five continents to Berlin and Brandenburg. Over the past five days we have not only presented a new definition for innovation, but also a new dimension. We have brought the future of our sector into the present, making the unique fascination of our industry’s products come alive. The new spirit of innovation was evident everywhere: in the halls, at the static display, in the air and in space. One ILA is succeeded by another, and I am already looking forward to the ILA 2020 which, from 13 to 17 May, will once again give a significant impetus to the worldwide aviation and space sectors.”

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Dr. Christian Göke, Chief Executive Officer of Messe Berlin

GmbH: “With its clear focus on innovations, technical refinements and the aerospace technologies of the future, the ILA Berlin has successfully redefined its position on the market. Among the factors contributing to the success of this year’s ILA have been the increased international participation, the presence of many members of the German government, headed by Federal Chancellor Merkel, and the spectacular programme of flying displays.”

German government strongly represented

The German government was particularly well represented this year. Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel opened the ILA 2018 during a tour of the trade show. “The ILA 2018 is not only a display of innovations, it also places a strong emphasis on cooperation. The ILA is very much a symbol of the close and successful cooperation with the partner country France.” Among those accompanying her were the Federal Minister of Transport, Andreas Scheuer, and the Federal Government’s new Aerospace Coordinator, Thomas Jarzombek. During his visit to the ILA the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Peter Altmaier, praised the aviation and space sectors as a source of innovations for Germany as a high-tech location, and announced new investments in the areas of digitalisation, unmanned mobility and eco-efficiency. Speaking at the ILA Future Lab, the Minister of State for Digital Technology, Dorothee Bär, welcomed the wealth of innovation and technology that is being “made in Germany”. The Federal Minister of Defence, Ursula von der Leyen, emphasised that “the ILA is an outstanding calling card for Germany and this year in particular it is a symbol of German-French friendship and cooperation.” Together with her French counterpart, Florence Parly, the minister announced several joint armaments programmes, involving the development of a new generation of combat aircraft, a new marine reconnaissance aircraft and a new generation of armoured land vehicles.

All the fascination of flight

Some 200 aircraft of all sizes and categories, and from many epochs of aviation history, were on display on the ground and in the air. There was an unprecedented display of the “giants of the air” such as the 100th A380 to be delivered to Emirates, the modern commercial aircraft A350 and A340 BLADE, the Beluga Super Transporter from Airbus, the Boeing 747-8 of Lufthansa and the largest transport aircraft in existence, the six-engined Antonov 225. The presentation also featured an impressive and diverse range of military aircraft. These included the Eurofighter combat aircraft, the A400M military transport, the Tiger combat helicopter and the French Rafale, the Kawasaki P1 marine reconnaissance aircraft from Japan and, from the USA, the ultra-modern multi-role F35 combat aircraft from Lockheed Martin. The heavy lift transport helicopters, the CH-53K (Lockheed Martin) and CH-47 Chinook (Boeing), attracted particular attention too.

The ILA Berlin again confirmed its standing as the most significant

space exhibition in Europe. An 18 metre high 1:4 scale model of the Ariane 6 launcher was a highly conspicuous symbol marking the ILA Space Pavilion, one of the main attractions for the general public at the ILA. Details were available here about future space missions and the many, varied applications of space research, with its resulting benefits for humankind. The Astronauts' Day and ILA Space Day explained about living in space and provided a platform for discussions about the pre-eminent topics in the field of space flight.

The ILA 2018 was accompanied by an extensive programme of conferences. The highlight was the Berlin Aviation Summit, held for the first time by the BDLI and DLR on the eve of the ILA. Leading representatives of the global aerospace industry discussed a roadmap for the future of aviation. With a display featuring many high-tech products, the Future Lab on the stand of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs provided insights into the technological future of the aviation industry, from a mobile charging point for drones to the pilotless CityAirbus.

The ILA 2018 was organised by the German Aerospace Industries Association (BDLI), Berlin, and Messe Berlin GmbH.

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