

France celebrates a hundred years of aeronautics at Le Bourget

The world's biggest civil and military, commercial and tourist aviation event, is creating ever-growing interest among professionals from all over the world and among the general public. For its centenary year the International Paris Air Show, held at the Paris-Le Bourget exhibition park from 15 to 21 June, was an exceptional event.



It was back in 1909 that the genius manufacturers and inventors, Blériot, Breguet and Voisin, arranged the first air show at the Grand Palais in Paris, where it continued to be held from 1909 to 1949. From 1924, it made clear its international approach by opening up to foreign manufacturers. The first flying displays were held at Orly in 1951, and then at Le Bourget in 1951. In 1953, the Exhibition moved permanently to Le Bourget.

Since then, what has become the essential International Air Show has expanded enormously. It has been witness to and a showcase for incessant innovations and the mastery of cutting-edge technologies. For this centenary year, the fly over of 30 historic aeroplanes dating from 1909 to 1970, from France, Europe and the United States, allowed the public to gauge the extraordinary progress

achieved from the first hesitant flights of the pioneers to the Airbus A380.

Other stars of the show this year were previews of two world firsts: the Sukhoi Superjet 100, the new Russian regional transport twin-engine jet, and the Camcopter helicopter drone made by the Austrian company Schiebel, the first drone ever shown in flight at an air show.

Held every two years, the event always emphasises the international sphere, offering manufacturers and subcontractors from all over the world an invaluable opportunity to showcase their latest innovations. The Russian Federation and China have chosen this event to exhibit their equipment in the West for the first time. Out of the record number of exhibitors, with over 2,000 expected for this 48th event, 60% are foreign. 48 countries are represented including, for the first time,

Australia, Lithuania, Libya, Mexico and Tunisia.

The success of the Paris Air Show is due in large part to the diversity of its exhibitors. Its organiser, GIFAS, the French aerospace industries association, which includes over 240 companies, is keen to ensure that all sectors of aviation are represented at the event. All sizes of company are in attendance, from major contractors to small and medium-sized enterprises, covering research, development, construction, marketing and maintenance of all aerospace programmes, civil and military, aeroplanes, helicopters, engines, spacecraft and missiles, space vehicles and their launch gear, equipment, electronic defence and security systems, etc.

The facilities are fully in keeping with the quality of the event. The exhibitors have an area entirely devoted to business and technology meet-

ings, successfully inaugurated in 2007, with themed seminars, purchasing seminars and individual meetings organised in advance - an excellent opportunity to set up commercial links, put forward future programmes, present equipment, and broker contracts and partnership projects. An area is also set aside for small and medium-sized European enterprises, which have a growing presence.

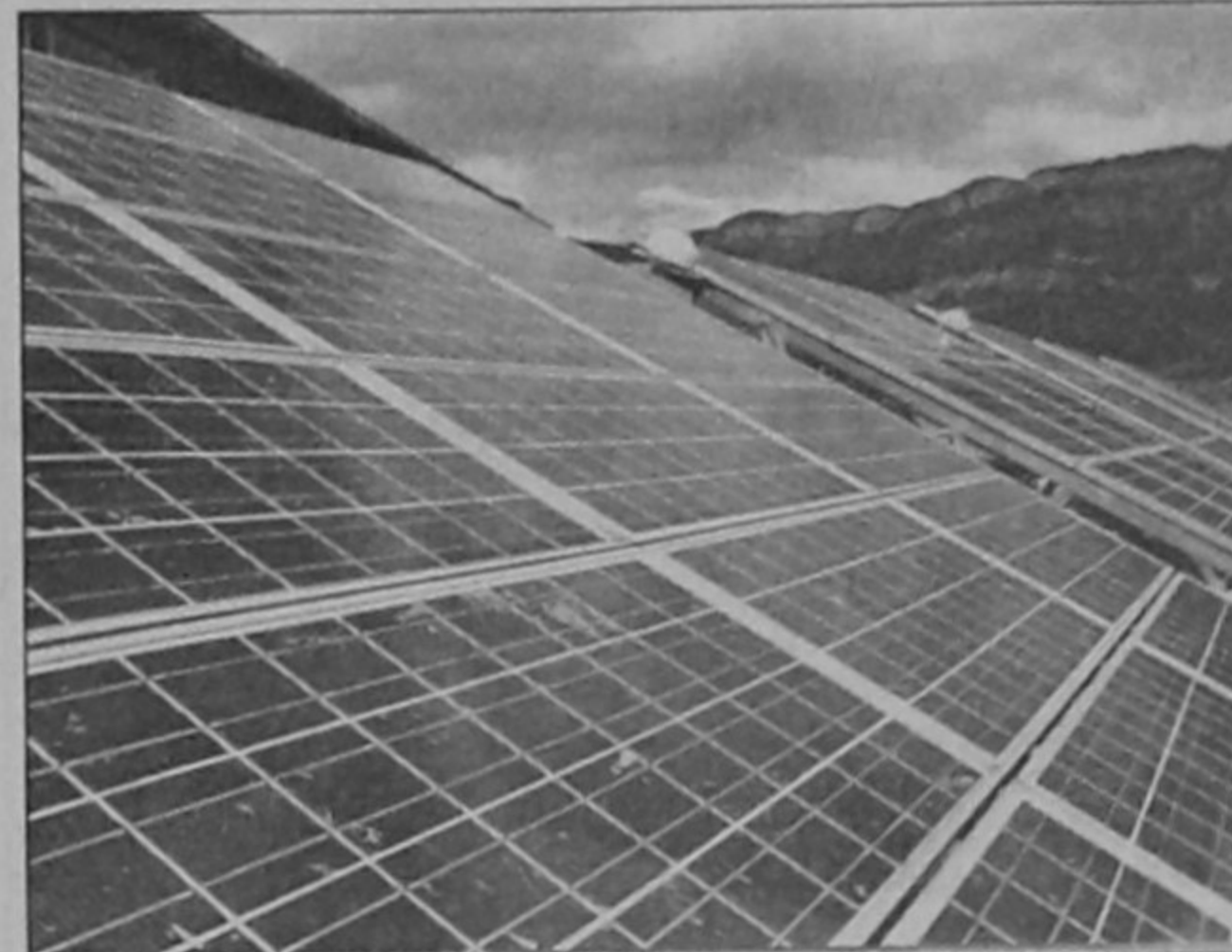
Unprecedented numbers attended this year. In addition to the exhibitors, 150 official delegations came from 20 different countries, plus 155,000 trade visitors (a constantly growing figure), over 3,500 journalists and approximately 157,000 members of the general public. As well as the 140 aircraft on show and the four hours per day of flying displays, the Patrouille de France put on a display. Because the Paris Air Show is also a great spectacle!



National Day celebrations in Paris

France takes another step in combating climate change

How can global warming be restricted to less than 2° Celsius? The question was debated last May in Paris, where 17 nations came together to prepare for the Major Economies Forum on energy and climate and discuss ways of limiting greenhouse gas emissions. An issue to which France has shown a firm commitment.



COPENHAGEN will be a meeting for humanity," stated Jean-Louis Borloo, the French Minister of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Regional Planning shortly before the preparatory meeting of the Major Economies Forum, held in Paris on 25 and 26 May.

Looking ahead to the United Nations conference on the climate scheduled to take place in the Danish capital in December 2009, the Minister underlined the fact that this meeting should "facilitate a frank and open dialogue between the major developed nations and developing countries, in order to generate the political impetus needed to reach an ambitious agreement on climate in Copenhagen." On 25 and 26 May, 17 nations, plus the European Union, which alone are responsible for 80% of the planet's greenhouse gases, therefore discussed targets for reducing emissions, methods of action appropriate to different countries, how to finance the fight against climate change and international cooperation on technology.

Top marks for France

The top priority is to limit global warming to less than 2° Celsius, given that beyond that point, the planet would tip over into irreversible change. This presupposes that by 2020, industrialised countries will have reduced their emissions by at least 25 to 40% compared with 1990, a target recognised by the international community in 2007. France, for its part, has confirmed its determination to keep to the timetable. Jean-Louis Borloo recalls the exemplary commitment of the 27 European Member States and France in particular. "Under the French presidency, the European Union set up a rigorous quantifiable system that could be evaluated country by country and sector by sector, called the energy and climate package". Set up at the end of 2008, the package provides for a reduction of 20% in greenhouse gas emissions in Europe by 2020 and 30% in the event of satisfactory agreements being reached in Copenhagen. In particular, the Minister is pleased to point out, Eurostat believes that France will have "reduced its emissions by 22.8 points in 2020 compared with 1990, i.e. more than the proportion set out in the energy and climate package, which is 14%".

France is determined to make a commitment towards developing countries and is instigating a process that aims to develop renewable energies in Africa. As far as developing countries are concerned, the meeting in Paris has played a part in making progress on the crucial question of financing actions to help them to adapt. In particular, the participants were attracted by the idea of setting up a "Green Fund". Funded by contributions from the richest countries, calculated pro rata of their gross domestic product and past and current emissions,

the fund would be used to finance programmes for combating global warming in accordance with each nation's needs.

Our heartiest felicitations to the friendly people and Government of the Republic of France on the occasion of their National Day.

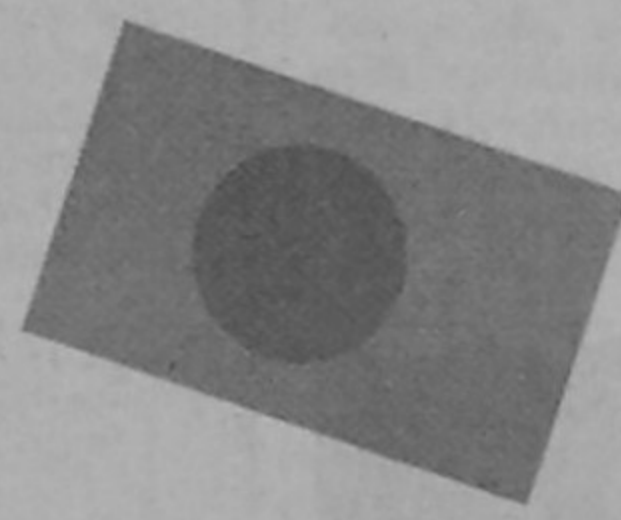
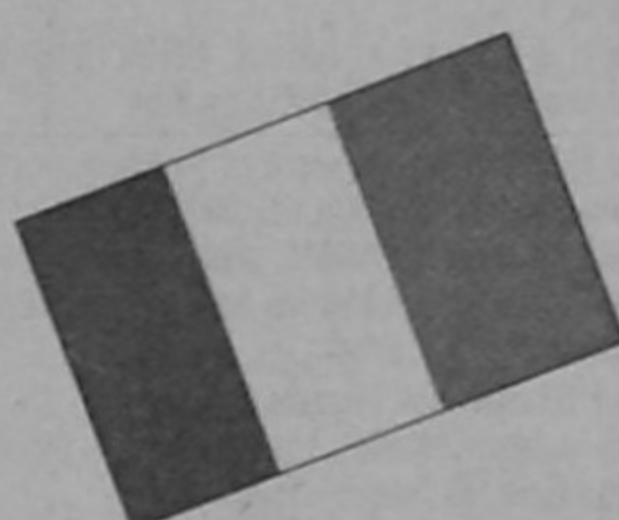


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