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ILA may break visitor records

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Huge interest at the DLR stand

Huge interest at the DLR exhibits during the Berlin Air Show (ILA 2008)

The German Aerospace Center (DLR) had a stand at the Berlin International Air Show (ILA 2008) displaying many exhibits from its various fields of research. Trade representatives and the general public alike flocked to the stand in the Raumfahrt Halle (Spaceflight Hall) and to the research fleet on the tarmac.

The ninth ILA, which ended in Berlin today, was accompanied by fine weather and a possible record number of visitors. Up to Saturday, 185 000 visitors had come to Schönefeld Airport. It is possible that today will see the previous record of 250 000 visitors (in 2006) broken. Chairman of the DLR Executive Board, Prof. Johann-Dietrich Wörner, was clearly highly satisfied when he today said: "This exhibition has not been just about setting new standards in visitor interest. We, too, can look back at a successful presence at the exhibition and look forward optimistically to the future. With the partnership agreements signed at ILA, DLR is demonstrating itself as an invaluable partner in the international aviation and spaceflight industry."



A320 ATRA on the static display

Numerous conferences and workshops were held under the auspices of ILA 2008, and it was also the venue for the signing of many a partnership agreement. DLR entered into a maintenance contract with LufthansaTechnik for the high-tech research aircraft, the ATRA, the newest member of the DLR research fleet. A further success, from a German point of view, was the re-establishment of the system capability for the construction of small geo-stationary telecommunications satellites, the 'SmallGEOs'; signatures were set to a similar contract for the construction of the 'Advanced Generation 1' with the Spanish company Hispasat. The requisite technology was developed in Germany, and supported by DLR.



The ARTIS unmanned research helicopter

Coming in at nearly 600 square metres, the huge DLR stand in Hall 9 saw its scientists and engineers display a representative cross-section of their R&D work in the fields of aviation and spaceflight, energy, and traffic and transport between 27 May to 1 June. There were 22 exhibits on show, some of which were 'hands-on' exhibits that could be tried out. Scientists showed how technology applications from space can be used here on Earth. In the field of aviation research, exhibits showed how flying could be made more environmentally friendly, among other things.

The theme in the Spaceflight Hall, constructed by the combined energies of the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology (BMWi), the European Space Agency (ESA) and the German Aerospace Industries Association (BDLI) was integration of national activities in international spaceflight missions. Among other things on show were the German Spaceflight Control Centre in Oberpfaffenhofen - near Munich - and a model of the ISS research lab COLUMBUS (launched in March), which is carrying out experiments controlled by DLR's Bavarian establishment.

On the exhibition site next to Hall 8 were four DLR aircraft (DLR has the largest fleet of research aircraft in Europe): the EC 135 FHS helicopter, the world's only fly-by-light aircraft, the Cessna 208 Caravan, a "flying lecture theatre" for the education of aviation and spaceflight students, and the Vfw 614 ATTAS, used as a flight simulator for flight-system research. ILA 2008 was also the first opportunity to show the public at large the A320 ATRA research aircraft. Together with Airbus, DLR demonstrated the use of fuel cells in this ultra-modern research aircraft.

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