AFRICA INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE EXHIBITION

AIR | LAND | MARITIME | SPACE | CYBER

SHOW DAILY - DAY 1

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26 – 29 OCTOBER 2026

EKO ATLANTIC, LAGOS, NIGERIA

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AFRICA INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE EXHIBITION

WELCOME TO AFRIDEX 2026

On behalf of dmg events, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the inaugural Africa International Defence Exhibition, Afridex 2026, taking place from 26–29 October at Eko Atlantic, Lagos, Nigeria. This edition represents a landmark moment for dmg events and for the continent's growing defence and security community.

Afridex brings together governments, armed forces, official delegations, senior military leadership, policymakers and international industry to address Africa's evolving security priorities. Across land, maritime, air, cyber and space, the exhibition is designed to connect operational requirements with practical capabilities, emerging technologies and long-term partnerships.

This official Show Daily Magazine will be published on 27, 28 and 29 October, recording the key news, announcements, launches and highlights from each day of the exhibition. It is your daily guide to the people, programmes and partnerships shaping Afridex 2026.

Our purpose is simple: to create a platform where meaningful connections lead to cooperation, knowledge exchange and industrial opportunity. By strengthening local supply chains, supporting capability development and encouraging innovation, Afridex aims to contribute to a more resilient and secure future for Africa.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Federal Government of Nigeria, the Federal Ministry of Defence and the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria for their leadership and partnership in delivering this inaugural event. We also thank our exhibitors, sponsors, speakers and delegations for their confidence in Afridex and their commitment to advancing the continent's defence and security landscape.

Over the coming days, I encourage every participant to engage fully — with the exhibition floor, the conference programme, and, most importantly, with one another. The relationships and ideas formed here will help define Afridex's legacy and its contribution to Africa's long-term security and industrial growth.

Welcome to Lagos. Welcome to AFRIDEX 2026.

dmg :: events

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Produced in collaboration with dmg events, a leading international organiser of face-to-face B2B exhibitions and a publisher of trade magazines and information services. dmg events organises 100 large-scale events annually across two dozen countries, attracting upwards of 650 000 professionals, delegates, and exhibitors each year. Its mission is to accelerate business by connecting the right communities, driving growth, innovation and progress across industries.
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Continue the conversations, strengthen the relationships and build your next opportunity.

Return to Nigeria for AFRIDEX 2028 and put your organisation's capabilities in front of the defence and security community.

Register your interest in exhibiting or sponsoring, and speak with our team about your next participation.

AFRICA NEEDS TO BE MORE SELF-RELIANT AND STRENGTHEN ITS SECURITY CAPABILITIES - TINUBU

Africa needs to become more self-reliant and create partnerships that develop African strategic resilience, Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu told the inaugural Africa International Defence Exhibition (Afridex) in Lagos.



President of the Senate, Godswill Akpabio, opens Afridex 2026 on behalf of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

He was represented by Nigerian Senate President Godswill Akpabio, who delivered this message at the opening ceremony at Eko Atlantic on Monday 26 October.

"Afridex 2026 must become a meeting point where military experience informs innovation, strengthens national capabilities, and partnerships, and delivers practical solutions. Our purpose here is very clear. We have to build an Africa capable of defending its people and securing the peace upon which progress depends," the message from the President read.

Akpabio spoke to a packed auditorium filled with delegates from African and international militaries, representatives from defence businesses, and diplomatic representatives.

A brass band played traditional African music to welcome the guests with particular emphasis on Nigerian hymns. The audience was filled with high-ranking officers and many people dressed in traditional Nigerian clothes made of Ankara cloth and agbada.

"We gather with a shared responsibility to secure our nations in Africa, protect our people, and safeguard Africa's future. From the Gulf of Guinea to the Sahel, from our territorial borders to the cyberspace and outer space, the threats confronting us are becoming more complex and much more interconnected. They threaten lives, livelihoods, and disrupt trade. They even weaken the foundations of development of many African countries. Africa's security must also command our collective attention because there can be no enduring prosperity when fear governs daily life. Nigeria speaks from experience. We know the cause

of insecurity, the lives that are lost on a daily basis, the communities that are displaced, the livelihoods that are interrupted, and the opportunities that are denied."

The President's address did not ignore the real hardships faced by frontline troops.

"Our armed forces have confronted terrorism, insurgency, banditry, piracy, and other transnational threats with courage and sacrifice, almost on a daily basis. We honour their services and remember those who have paid a supreme sacrifice and their souls rest in peace. Their sacrifices place an obligation upon us to provide the leadership, to provide the equipment, the training, and the support that our current men and women in the field need. We have also learned that lasting security requires strong institutions, public trust, reliable partnership, and the industrial capacity to sustain our defence capabilities.

"Our defence partnership must therefore deliver value. Long after equipment has been supplied, every major acquisition should help develop skills, transfer knowledge, strengthen local industries, deepen our capacity to maintain what we operate. The measure of a successful partnership is the capability it leaves behind. African engineers must gain expertise. African enterprises must grow.

"African institutions must become stronger. Self-determination must guide our support for African-led peace operations. The courage to respond to crises must be matched by predictable resources. Adequate equipment, rigorous training, sustained institutional support. Those we send to keep the peace must have the means to keep the peace. We must also secure the seas that connect our economies to one another and to the rest of the world."

Present day realities, particularly of rapidly advancing battlefield technologies were significant points in the President's address.

"At the same time, we must prepare for the changing character of conflict in the global society. Cyber capabilities, space technologies, artificial intelligence, and autonomous systems are transforming the security environment.

"Africa must invest in the knowledge and institutions required to understand these technologies, use them responsibly, and develop solutions of our own, particularly for the purposes of maintenance. Our young people have the talents. Our responsibility is to create the opportunities for them. Nigeria is advancing indigenous defence production, strengthening cooperation with trusted partners, and developing capabilities suited to evolving threats. We will continue to support these efforts with a very clear objective."

The importance of international partnerships that benefit Africa and shared collective defence for the region was a key aspect of his speech.

This emphasis on mutually beneficial international partnerships and collective African security was echoed by an earlier speaker, General Birame Diop, President of the ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) Commission, who praised President Tinubu for his leadership in regional security.

"His support for initiatives that promote African self-reliance, defence cooperation, and collective security continues to inspire our collective efforts toward a safer, more secure, and more prosperous West Africa. Nigeria has consistently demonstrated leadership in advancing peace and security across Africa, from the immense sacrifices it made in restoring peace in Liberia and Sierra Leone, to its pivotal role in the operationalisation and deployment of the ECOWAS Standby Force today. This exhibition is yet another testament to Nigeria's enduring leadership and commitment to regional stability, collective security, and defence cooperation on the continent. By convening Afridex, Nigeria has once again demonstrated visionary leadership, affirming that Africa's future security lies not in dependence on others, but in our collective ability to design, develop, and provide our own security solutions."

Diop, too, reiterated the changing nature of 21st century warfare as it pertains to Africa.

"The current security landscape across our continent remains complex and challenging. Terrorist attacks, transnational organised crime, banditry, piracy, and other illicit activities at sea, unconstitutional changes of government, cyber-attacks, and mis- and disinformation continue to threaten peace, stability, and development. These threats are asymmetric, transnational, and deeply interconnected, requiring equally coordinated and innovative responses. At the same time, the geopolitical environment in which we operate is changing rapidly. The world is becoming increasingly multipolar, characterised by growing primacy of national interests, geopolitical competition, shifting alliances, and uncertainty about the future. We must also acknowledge the realities that access to defence equipment, critical technologies, and military capabilities can at times be constrained by the interests and priorities of external powers. Leaders do not wait for crisis to emerge before taking action. They prepare for that. If the future is uncertain, our response must be rooted in readiness, resilience, and self-reliance. This makes initiatives such as Afridex both timely and necessary."

Nigerian Defence Minister Christopher Gwabin Musa spoke earlier in the ceremony to place Nigerian defence needs firmly within an African and global context, especially as it relates to Afridex.

"We are all aware of the challenges of insecurity confronting not only Nigeria, but indeed, the entire world. And we need for us to continue to work together for the good of humanity. This gathering offers us that platform and opportunity to engage meaningfully in the pursuit of a safer and more secure world. Afridex started as a strategic mission, and I'm glad to see that today the ideas have come to fruition. The world is faced with tumult and uncertainties that challenge our peaceful existence. The threats we encounter are hybrid in nature and fast evolving across all domains of warfare. The challenge before us is to ensure that our defence policies and institutions remain responsive to these challenges and their realities. We must continue to prepare for the changing character of warfare and develop the requisite capacities to deal with them decisively. The contemporary global realities therefore reinforce the importance of collective security."

ASELSAN SHOWCASES INTEGRATED DEFENCE CAPABILITIES FOR AFRICAN MARKETS

ASELSAN (stand 2110) is using the inaugural Africa International Defence Exhibition (Afridex) 2026 in Lagos to consolidate a growing African presence built on local industrial partnerships and a battle-proven portfolio spanning air defence, electronic warfare, electro-optics and precision-guided munitions that can address evolving regional security challenges across Africa.



Nigeria is a pivotal defence and security partner for ASELSAN in West Africa. Recognising the country's central role in regional stability, ASELSAN's engagement extends beyond individual projects toward a long-term strategic alliance built on trust, cooperation, and shared security priorities.

This commitment is reflected through high-level delegation engagements, tailored technology-transfer frameworks, and a dedicated in-country presence that enables direct and continuous dialogue. By combining local coordination with field-tested solutions, ASELSAN supports the Nigerian Armed Forces' modernisation goals and responds to the region's changing operational requirements.

For ASELSAN, Nigeria is not simply another exhibition venue. It is the location of its permanent Abuja office, opened last year as its operational base for West Africa, and a market where the company is actively pursuing local partnerships, including potential shipyard cooperation.

ASELSAN's participation follows a high-profile presence at the Aerospace and Defence (AAD) 2026 exhibition in Pretoria, where the company hosted more than 30 delegations and met South African Defence Minister Angie Motshekga and Turkish Deputy Minister of National Defence Salih Ayhan. Those discussions centred on regional defence and aerospace cooperation, technology tailored to African requirements and long-term partnership opportunities – discussions that will also be a feature of ASELSAN's AFRIDEX participation.

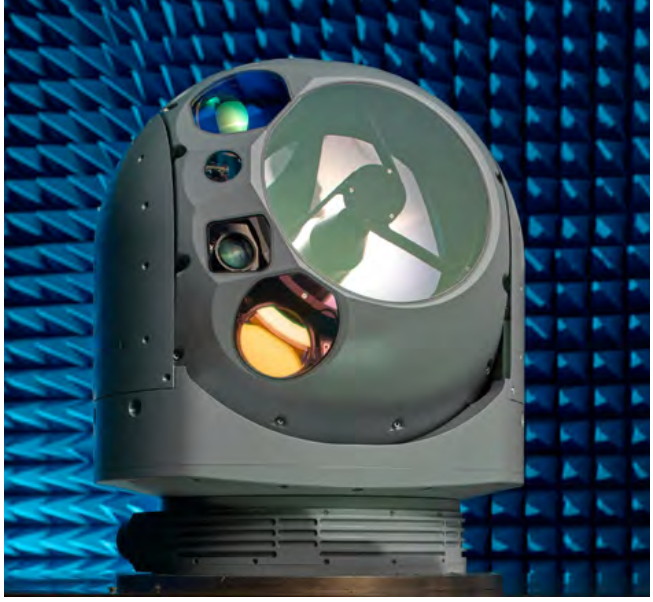
That South African engagement demonstrated ASELSAN's ability to integrate its systems onto regional platforms. At AAD 2026, its guided munitions and the ASELFLIR-500 electro-optical system were displayed on the Paramount Mwari intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) and light-attack aircraft, for example.

Afridex extends that approach into West Africa, where the security environment is shaped by insurgency, porous borders, unmanned aerial system (UAS) threats, maritime insecurity and the need for affordable, sustainable capability. The exhibition's programme is structured around land, maritime, air, space and cyber domains, aligning closely with ASELSAN's multi-domain product base.

The timing is favourable. Nigerian President Bola Tinubu visited Türkiye in January 2026 for talks with President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, while Ahmet Akyol, President & CEO of ASELSAN, has regularly visited Nigeria. The Nigerian Air Force's acquisition of six T-129 attack helicopters from Turkish Aerospace Industries has also created a broader entry point for Turkish defence suppliers. These helicopters are fitted with ASELSAN electro-optical gimbals and helmet-mounted displays, for example.

STEEL DOME AND AIR DEFENCE

A flagship element of ASELSAN's Afridex display is Steel Dome, the company's multi-layered integrated air-defence ecosystem. Steel Dome links radars, electro-optical





sensors, command-and-control nodes and missile and gun effectors into a unified network. Its principal advantage is the creation of a real-time air picture across low-, medium- and high-altitude threat vectors, from aircraft to cruise missiles, drones and other aerial threats.

Counter-unmanned aerial system capability is one of ASELSAN's most marketable offerings in Africa. Its İHTAR is a mobile or stationary solution for critical infrastructure and base protection. It combines radar detection, electro-optical tracking, and active RF directional or omnidirectional jamming to neutralise micro- and mini-UAV threats before they reach protected perimeters.

The KORKUT 25 mm system is optimised for armoured units and mechanised formations, providing point defence against drones, low-flying air targets and lightly armoured ground targets. The KORKUT 35 mm system, meanwhile, is a battle-tested twin-barrel system using ATOM 35 mm Airburst Ammunition. It delivers cost-effective defence against asymmetric aerial targets, cruise missiles, helicopters, and low-altitude fixed- or rotary-wing platforms.

Together, these systems reflect Aselsan's view that drone defence cannot depend on one technology. Detection, electronic attack and kinetic effects must be combined according to the threat, terrain and protected asset.

PRECISION STRIKE AND LAND MODERNISATION

ASELSAN is also highlighting its high-accuracy Laser Guidance Kits (LGKs) for conventional bombs, which transform conventional unguided bombs into high-precision, laser-guided smart munitions. By delivering exceptional circular error probable (CEP) accuracy, LGKs enable surgical strikes against high-value stationary and moving targets while helping to minimise collateral damage in complex operational environments.

This capability complements the company's broader airborne portfolio, including the TOLUN precision-guided munition family and ASELFLIR electro-optical targeting systems.

On the ground, ASELSAN is promoting modernisation and life-extension packages for legacy land platforms, including self-propelled howitzers and main battle tanks. Its main battle tank upgrades include C4I systems, thermal imaging and sighting units, 360-degree situational-awareness sensors, active protection systems, laser-warning receivers and remote weapon stations.

Regarding artillery and howitzer modernisation, ASELSAN advanced fire-control systems, inertial navigation, ballistic computers, and automated gun-laying and ammunition-loading capabilities turn towed and self-propelled howitzers into digitalised, shoot-and-scoot artillery platforms.

ASELSAN offers both upgrades for legacy mortars and fully integrated new mortar platforms. Turnkey automatic mortar systems can be integrated into wheeled or tracked vehicles or stationary positions, featuring automatic recoil absorption, computerised target acquisition, and rapid automated laying.

Subsystem upgrades add advanced fire control, digital ballistic computation, and automated aiming to existing inventories, connecting legacy mortars to battlefield command-and-control networks.

SECURE COMMUNICATIONS

ASELSAN's tactical communications portfolio completes the offering. It provides secure, software-defined, mission-critical communication architectures designed to maintain connectivity in demanding combat environments and emergency operations.

ASELSAN's high-capacity software-defined radio (SDR) family covers HF, VHF, and UHF bands, delivering encrypted voice, high-speed data, and video across airborne, naval, vehicular, and dismounted platforms. Electronic counter-countermeasures, including frequency hopping and advanced TRANSEC/COMSEC encryption, protect communications in hostile electronic-warfare environments.

Designed for military police, internal security forces, and emergency responders, mission-critical public safety communications networks provide real-time situational awareness, inter-agency interoperability, secure group calling, and precise GPS tracking.

FROM SYSTEMS TO PARTNERSHIPS

ASELSAN's African strategy is broader than equipment sales. Africa is a key growth market both for demand and for long-term strategic partnerships. That message resonates at Afridex, which is designed to connect governments, armed forces, policymakers, manufacturers and technology providers in a formal environment supporting procurement pathways and partnership formation. In West Africa, the Abuja office gives ASELSAN a permanent channel into Nigerian security institutions and regional customers amid growing Turkish-Nigerian defence ties.

Day 1 | Tuesday 27th October 2026

VIPS, SPEAKERS & DELEGATES ONLY

Day 1 sets the strategic foundation for the programme, bringing together senior leaders to examine Africa's position within an increasingly complex global security environment. Discussions will explore the continent's role in a fragmenting geopolitical landscape, the impact of external dynamics on regional stability, and the evolving nature of conflict and capability development. Through a combination of high-level dialogue and operational insight, the day will establish key themes around cooperation, innovation, and preparedness for emerging challenges.

07.00	**Registration Opens** *VIPs, Speakers, Delegates and Exhibitors*
08.00	**Breakfast & Networking** *VIPs, Speakers & Delegates only*
09.00	**Registration Opens** *All visitors*
08.30	**Welcome Address** **Christopher Hudson** *President, dmg events*

AFRICA'S SECURITY ROLE IN A CHANGING GLOBAL ORDER

As global power structures shift and security threats become more complex, African nations face important choices about partnerships, preparedness and strategic influence. This opening session will examine how Africa can shape the emerging security order while strengthening the cooperation, interoperability and capabilities required to protect the continent's interests.

09.00

OPENING KEYNOTE:

From Strategic Complexity To Operational Cooperation – Advancing Africa's Security Readiness

- Translating a changing global security environment into practical military cooperation
- Strengthening preparedness, interoperability and resilience against emerging threats
- Advancing innovation and capability development through trusted, African-led partnerships

General Dagvin R.M. Anderson [USAF]
Commander, United States Africa Command

09.30

PANEL:

The Capability Gap: What Africa Needs Most In The Next 24 Months

- Africa's most urgent capability gaps
- Priorities for the next 24 months
- Accelerating procurement and deployment

Lieutenant General Amara I Bangura
Chief of Defence Staff, Sierra Leone Armed Forces

Brigadier General Davidson F. Forleh,
Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of Liberia

MODERATOR:

Major General Anthony Atolagbe
International Consultant and Research Fellow, Federal Republic of Nigeria

STRATEGIC CONFERENCE

Day 1 | Tuesday 27th October 2026

VIPS, SPEAKERS & DELEGATES ONLY

10.45 **Morning Coffee & Networking**
VIPs, Speakers & Delegates only

AFRICA AND EUROPE: SHARED SECURITY AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Security developments across Africa, Europe and the Mediterranean increasingly affect both continents. Through UK and Italian perspectives, this session will examine how defence cooperation, responsible trade and investment can support regional stability, strengthen African capability and generate sustainable economic growth.

11.30 **KEYNOTE:**

From Partnership to Prosperity – Advancing UK–Africa Defence And Security Cooperation

- Expanding responsible trade and investment across Africa's defence and security sectors
- Connecting African capability requirements with UK innovation, expertise and technology
- Building long-term commercial partnerships that strengthen local industry, skills and economic growth



Major General John Clark
Commander of the Integrated Global Defence Network, UK Ministry of Defence

12.00 **KEYNOTE:**

Shared Security, Shared Responsibility – Italy and Africa In A Changing Strategic Environment

- Responding collectively to interconnected threats across Africa, the Mediterranean and Europe
- Strengthening military cooperation, interoperability and operational readiness
- Building long-term partnerships founded on shared priorities, mutual trust and sustainable capability development



General Luciano Portolano
Chief of Defence, Italian Ministry of Defence

12.30 **Lunch & Networking**
VIPs, Speakers & Delegates only

Day 1 | Tuesday 27th October 2026

VIPS, SPEAKERS & DELEGATES ONLY

14.45 **PANEL:**

Peacekeeping Under Pressure: What Needs To Change

- Adapting peacekeeping to complex threats
- Improving mandates, resources and coordination
- Strengthening African-led peace operations



General George Alexander Jaffu (Jnr)
Chief of Defence Force, Malawi Defence Force



Major-General Tomás Djassi
Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces, Republic of Guinea-Bissau



Major General Ibrahim Mohamed Mohamud
Commander, Somalian National Armed Forces

MODERATOR:



Major General Neil Sexton
Former Director Army Engagement & Communications, British Army

15.45 **Afternoon Coffee & Networking**
VIPs, Speakers & Delegates only

COLLECTIVE SECURITY IN PRACTICE: PARTNERSHIPS, PEACE OPERATIONS AND AFRICAN LEADERSHIP

Effective collective security depends on partnerships that reflect national priorities and deliver lasting operational capability. This session will examine how stronger cooperation can improve defence outcomes while helping African-led peace operations respond to more complex threats, constrained resources and changing requirements.

13.45 **PANEL:**

Defence Partnerships That Actually Deliver

- Building effective defence partnerships
- Aligning cooperation with national priorities
- Delivering sustainable security outcomes



General Luciano Portolano
Chief of Defence, Italian Ministry of Defence



Vice Admiral Oumar Wade
Chief of the General Staff, Armed Forces of Senegal



Major General John Clark
Commander of the Integrated Global Defence Network, UK Ministry of Defence

MODERATOR:



Major General Neil Sexton
Former Director Army Engagement & Communications, British Army

STRATEGIC CONFERENCE

Day 1 | Tuesday 27th October 2026

VIPS, SPEAKERS & DELEGATES ONLY

MARITIME SECURITY IN ACTION: PROTECTING THE GULF OF GUINEA THROUGH REGIONAL COOPERATION

Securing the Gulf of Guinea requires neighbouring states and regional institutions to operate with shared awareness, clear coordination and common purpose. This session will examine how multinational task forces can improve intelligence-sharing, strengthen maritime command arrangements and convert political cooperation into effective action.

16.30

PANEL:

Securing The Gulf Of Guinea: Multinational Maritime Task Forces In Practice

- Coordinating multinational maritime operations
- Sharing intelligence across regional forces
- Translating cooperation into maritime security



Ambassador Obinna C. Agbugba
Deputy Executive Secretary, Political Affairs, Gulf of Guinea Commission

Commodore M.S Shettima
Commander of the Combined Maritime Task Force Gulf of Guinea, Nigerian Navy



Professor Thomas Mandrup
Head of Research, Stellenbosch University & Royal Danish Defence College

MODERATOR:



Mikkel Andersen
Special Advisor, Royal Danish Defence College

17.30 **Closing Remarks**

18.30 **Exhibition Closed**

18.30 **Drinks Reception**
Invitation Only

Day 1 | Tuesday 27th October 2026

TECHNICAL THEATRE | AVAILABLE FOR ALL VISITORS

08.00 **Registration Opens**
All Vistors

STREAM A: INTEGRATED OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY

Stream A examines the capabilities required to prepare, protect and sustain modern armed forces across the land and maritime domains. It will explore how doctrine, training, technology, infrastructure and international cooperation can be integrated to strengthen readiness, resilience and operational effectiveness.

09.30 **Opening Remarks**

BUILDING COMBAT-READY GROUND FORCES

Ground forces must be prepared to operate at greater intensity, sustain battlefield effectiveness and respond quickly to changing threats. This session will examine how training, doctrine and force structures can evolve to strengthen readiness and deliver credible land capability.

09.45 **Preparing Ground Forces For High-intensity conflict**

- Training for high-intensity operations
- Building battlefield readiness
- Adapting force structures and doctrine order

11.00 **Stream Break**

STREAM B: DIGITAL ADVANTAGE & FUTURE CAPABILITY

Stream B examines how digital technologies, innovation and strategic enablers are transforming modern defence. It will explore cyber resilience, sovereign capability, emerging technologies, investment, air mobility and space-enabled operations, connecting new ideas and partnerships with measurable operational advantage.

09.30 **Opening Remarks**

SUSTAINING AIR POWER IN A CONNECTED BATTLESPACE

Air-power readiness depends on both the physical systems that keep aircraft operational and the digital capabilities that protect information advantage. This session will examine how local MRO, resilient supply chains, cyber operations, space capabilities and digital forensics can strengthen sovereign air capability and operational effectiveness.

09.45 **Local MRO, Supply Chains And Sovereign Support Capability**

- Expanding local MRO capability
- Strengthening aviation supply chains
- Building sovereign support capacity

10.15 **PANEL:**
The Converged Information Battlespace – Cyber, Space And Digital Forensics

- Connecting cyber, information and space operations
- Using digital forensics to detect and attribute threats
- Integrating cross-domain intelligence into operational decisions

11.00 **Stream Break**

Day 1 | Tuesday 27th October 2026

TECHNICAL THEATRE | AVAILABLE FOR ALL VISITORS

BUILDING THE SYSTEMS BEHIND MODERN MILITARY POWER

Operational advantage depends on more than acquiring new technology. This session will examine how effective command structures, defence research, technical evaluation and acquisition systems can convert emerging requirements into secure, deployable and sustainable military capability.

11.30 **Africa's Cyber Command Era**

- Developing effective cyber command structures
- Integrating cyber into defence planning
- Building operational cyber capability

12.00 **PANEL:**
From Requirement To Readiness

- Connecting operational requirements with research and development
- Testing and evaluating emerging defence technologies
- Turning African innovation into deployable capability threats

12.45 **Stream Break**

CONNECTED DEFENCE: AUTONOMY, SENSORS AND INTEGRATED SYSTEMS

Modern forces need technologies that connect surveillance, intelligence and command into a coherent operational picture. This session will examine how autonomous platforms, advanced sensors and integrated defence systems can protect critical assets, accelerate decision-making and strengthen operational effectiveness.

13.30 **Autonomous Systems For Critical Infrastructure Security**

- Deploying autonomous air and ground surveillance
- Connecting sensor data for faster threat response
- Scaling African-built technology across critical sectors

BUILDING AFRICA'S COLLECTIVE CYBER RESILIENCE

Cyber threats cross national borders, military networks and civilian infrastructure, requiring a coordinated continental response. This session will examine how African nations can align cyber policy and defence capabilities, strengthen information- sharing and build effective partnerships between governments, armed forces and industry.

12.00 **PANEL:**
A Continental Approach To Cyber Warfare And Defence

- Strengthening continental cyber cooperation
- Aligning policy and defence capabilities
- Expanding public-private collaboration

12.45 **Stream Break**

SECURING AFRICA'S DIGITAL ADVANTAGE

Digitised operations create new opportunities for military effectiveness while introducing risks across connected systems, data and infrastructure. This session will examine how African defence organisations can manage digital threats, scale locally developed technologies and build sovereign capability that is both secure and operationally effective.

13.30 **Managing Risk In A Digitised Battlespace**

- Identifying digital battlefield risks
- Protecting connected defence systems
- Balancing security and operational effectiveness

Day 1 | Tuesday 27th October 2026

TECHNICAL THEATRE | AVAILABLE FOR ALL VISITORS

14.00 **From Sensor To Effect – Integrating The Modern Battlespace**

- Connecting radar, communications and command systems
- Integrating electronic warfare and counter-UAS capabilities
- Building interoperable, mission-ready defence architectures

14.30 **Stream Break**

DELIVERING THE FUTURE GROUND FORCE

Modernisation succeeds when technology responds to genuine operational requirements and can be integrated at pace. This session will examine how doctrine, digital command, autonomous systems and defence innovation can work together to create a more connected, adaptable and combat-ready ground force.

15.30 **PANEL:**
The Integrated Ground Force – Connecting Doctrine, Digital Command And Emerging Technology

- Aligning new technology with operational requirements
- Integrating cyber, autonomy and connected battlefield systems
- Accelerating capability from development to deployment

18.00 **Exhibition Closed**

14.00 **Africa's Strategic Advantage In The Digital Age**

- Leveraging Africa's digital potential
- Scaling locally developed technologies
- Building sovereign digital capability

14.30 **Stream Break**

FROM CYBER INCIDENT TO OPERATIONAL RESILIENCE

Real-world incidents provide critical lessons about the vulnerabilities within connected defence networks and the consequences of delayed response. This closing session will examine how African defence organisations can apply those lessons to strengthen preparedness, contain disruption and recover operational capability more quickly.

15.30 **Lessons Learned: Cyber Incidents Across African Defence Networks**

- Lessons from real-world cyber incidents
- Identifying defence network vulnerabilities
- Strengthening response and recovery

18.00 **Exhibition Closed**

US AIR FORCE EXPLORES RETURNING KC-10 TANKERS TO SERVICE FOR NORTH AFRICAN OPERATOR

The United States Air Force (USAF) is exploring the possibility of returning four mothballed KC-10 Extender tankers to service for a 'partner nation' in North Africa.

In a Request for Information (RFI) dated 7 October, the Air Force Life Cycle Management Centre noted the request was "issued solely for information and planning purposes" as part of market research and "does not constitute a Request for Proposal (RFP) or a promise to issue an RFP in the future."

The RFI's purpose is to identify potential industry sources that possess the capability, expertise, and facilities to execute the regeneration, one-time flight clearance, depot-level return to service, worldwide ferry delivery, in-country Contractor Logistics Support, and operational/maintenance training for up to four KC-10 Extender aircraft transferred via Excess Defence Articles (EDA) to a partner nation in North Africa. Responses are due by 28 October 2026.

Derived from the McDonnell Douglas DC-10 commercial airliner, the KC-10 Extender entered US Air Force service in 1981, with 60 built by McDonnell Douglas. It carries 160 200 kilograms of fuel and can refuel other aircraft using either a flying boom or a centreline hose-and-drogue system. The KC-10 can also transport up to 75 people and nearly 76 560 kilograms of cargo a distance of about 7 040 kilometres unrefuelled.

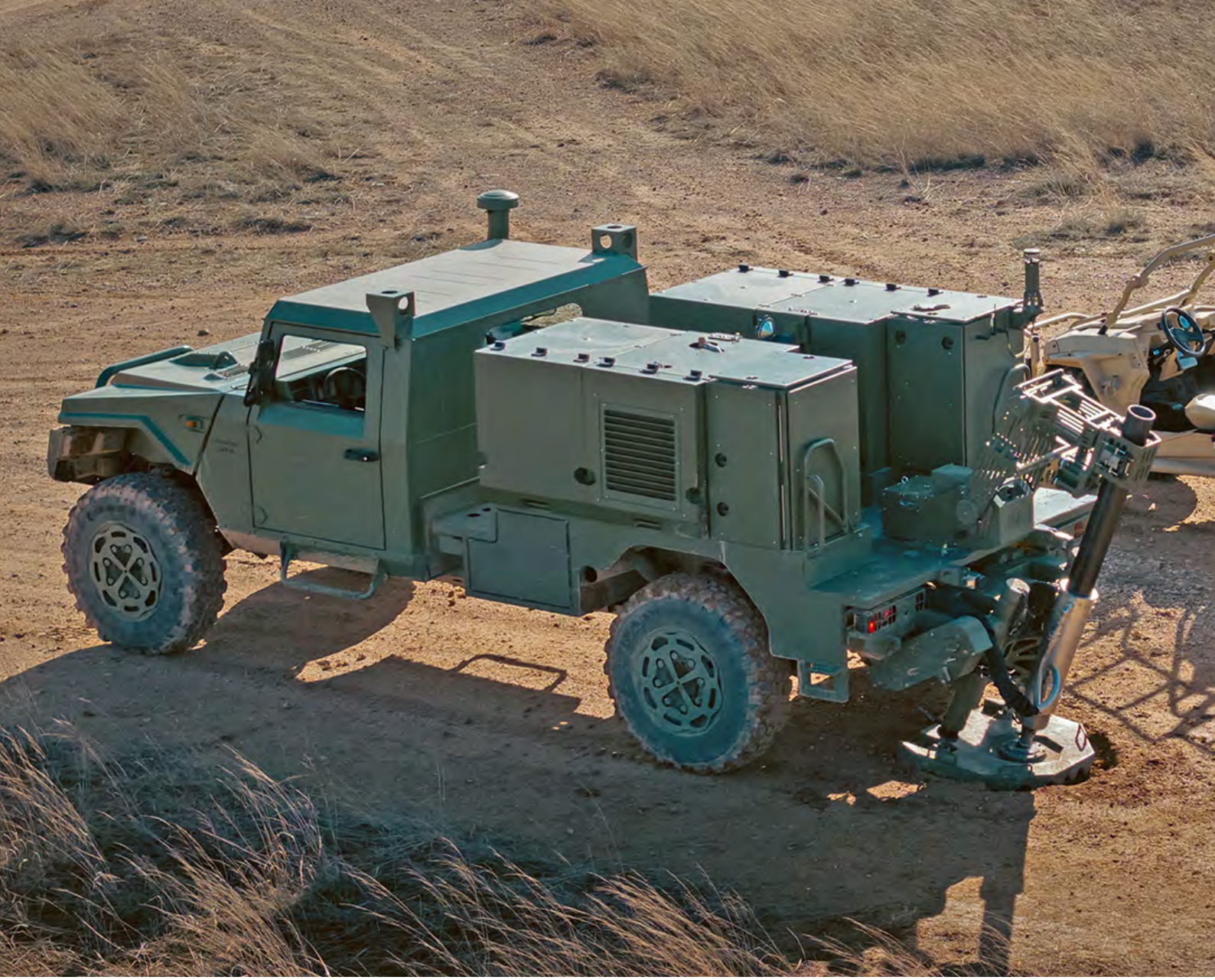
The US Air Force began retiring the type in favour of the new KC-46 Pegasus from mid-July 2020 when the first KC-10 arrived at the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group (AMARG) at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Arizona. The final US Air Force KC-10 departed Travis Air Force Base, California, for AMARG in September 2024.

Last year ten KC-10s were put up for auction and acquired by Omega Aerial Refuelling Services. Omega currently flies two former Royal Netherlands Air Force KDC-10 tankers, another DC-10 converted into a probe-and-drogue tanker, and two KC-707s.

While the US Air Force did not specify which North African partner may receive the KC-10s, it is likely to be either Egypt or Morocco as both fly large F-16 fleets that are boom-refuelled.







STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

The Spanish company EM&E Group, headquartered in Madrid, is participating in Afridex 2026 this week (Stand 4002) with an eye on strengthening its international outreach towards key players in Africa's defence sector.

Backed by solid experience in engineering and precision mechanical manufacturing since 1989, the EM&E Group specialises in the design, development, and manufacture of advanced defence and security systems.

"We regard Afridex 2026 as an opportunity to foster dialogue within the context of evolving operational needs and the growing importance of technological innovation," the company said.

EM&E combines proprietary technology with a focus on reliability, operational effectiveness, and adaptation to different platforms and mission requirements, it said. Its EMOC 120 and 81 mm mortar carrier systems, combining high mobility with heavy firepower, underscore the company's aim for technologies that respond to current challenges in the defence arena.

The system is designed to provide indirect fire capability from high-mobility vehicles, facilitating 'shoot-and-scoot' tactics. It can be deployed in less than 20 seconds for the 120 mm version and 15 seconds for the 81 mm version – a significant advantage to reduce exposure time to potential threats.

It incorporates an advanced recoil management system that enables stable firing from the very first moment and is compatible with EM&E Group's smart ammunition, featuring a CEP (circular error probable) of 10 meters.

According to the company, the system's open architecture facilitates integration into various land platforms.

"Another of our strategic areas is the fight against hostile drones, for which we offer the ODIN family C-UAS (counter-unmanned aircraft systems)," EM&E Group stated.

Its new ODIN 6x6 anti-drone system was presented at Eurosatory, the world's leading defence and aerospace exhibition in Paris earlier this year.

The ODIN anti-drone solution integrates different technologies to address the full threat cycle, from detection







and identification to neutralisation. Thanks to the different configurations available, it is highly adaptable and can be tailored to specific customer needs.

According to the company, the ODIN-I multi-sensor and multi-factor system can be mounted on a military support vehicle or a towed platform for easy deployment in the field. In function, it serves as protection against short-range ground, air, and maritime threats with proven high operational precision.

The ODIN-L, integrated into a mobile station, combines sensors, effectors, and a command and control system, allowing it to be rapidly deployed and adapted to various operational scenarios. This C-UAS system is capable of protecting both fixed and temporary facilities, as well as troops deployed in operational zones, thanks to various configurations according to customer needs, ranging from highly mobile solutions to permanent or temporary rapid-deployment solutions.

At Afridex 2026, EM&E Group is also showing some of its remote weapon stations for land and naval platforms.

With their modular design to allow for both day and night operations, these solutions reduce direct exposure of the operators while contributing to improving situational awareness and response capability.

"All of these capabilities reflect EM&E Group's commitment to engineering, technological development, and the adaptation of solutions to the requirements of different operational environments," the company affirmed. "With our presence here at Afridex 2026, we continue to advance our internationalisation strategy and reaffirm our interest in driving long-term relationships to collaborate with others in the defence and security spheres."



AFRICA INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE EXHIBITION ON DISPLAY



























A TRUSTED PARTNER IN THE SKY

Backed by 80 years' experience in the aerospace industry, Slovakia-based Letecké Opravovne Trenčín (LOTN) is offering its expertise to local and international partners. The company is this week exhibiting at Afridex 2026 in Lagos, Nigeria (stand 5121).



Earlier this year, its specialist aviation workshops showcased their advanced its capabilities for the first time at Europe's largest general aviation exhibition Aero 2026 in Friedrichshafen, Germany, in April.

"LOTN has evolved into a high-tech MRO (maintenance, repair, and overhaul) hub that seamlessly bridges legacy Soviet-era platforms with state-of-the-art NATO technology," the company said. "Our workshops are specialised ecosystems equipped with purpose-built tooling and in-house design capabilities, able to execute complex modernisation programmes."

Besides modernisation services, the company executes maintenance and repairs of aviation equipment down to the component level of platforms such as Mi-8 and Mi-17/171, UH-60 Black Hawk multi-purpose transport helicopters, as well as F-16 Fighting Falcon fighter jets, L-39 jet trainers and L-410 transport aircraft.

"Thanks to our company-owned and operated airfield, our customers can fly-in and fly-out, a service model that minimises downtime for both military and civil operators," the company explained. "While our primary mission remains the readiness of the Slovak Air Force, our reputation has attracted a diverse portfolio of international armed forces and private collectors."

A 100% government-owned joint-stock company under the Slovak Ministry of Defence, LOTN is the only facility of its kind in Slovakia.

Its flagship commercial facility is the state-of-the-art painting and refinishing workshop, designed to accommodate a wide range of aircraft sizes. It undertakes a comprehensive process to protect the aircraft against corrosion and aerodynamic drag. Precision chemical and mechanical stripping precedes detail structural inspections, repairs and hermetic sealing, before the application of specialised high-durability coatings in a climate-controlled environment.

The company further boasts an upholstery workshop, chemistry and metrological laboratory, surface treatment and a plexiglass workshop. This latter workshop specialises in the dismantling, repair and assembly of plexiglass, windows and laminate covers, such as for radars and other protective components.

LOTN is now rapidly expanding into the digital battlefield and towards autonomous flight.

"We are proud to serve as the main industrial partner in the Slovak 3D Radar project," the company stated. "This involves the sophisticated manufacturing of microwave modules, which require extreme precision and clean-room conditions."

The LOTN UAV Production and Assembly division is currently developing capabilities for the next generation of unmanned aerial systems. "By integrating our traditional MRO expertise with modern composite materials and drone electronics, we are preparing for a future where manned and unmanned platforms operate in tandem."

Late last year, LOTN together with its partner Airvolute, delivered two of its Ellipsis VTOL (vertical take-off and landing) unmanned aerial vehicles to the MR Štefánik Armed Forces Academy Simulation Centre in Liptovský Mikuláš.

It is a modern tactical drone designed for advanced ISR (intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance) missions. Equipped with a powerful autopilot, it offers top computing power, modular architecture, high reliability and rapid readiness for military, security and civilian deployments. According to the company, its software is customisable for the required mission application, from border protection, perimeter security to rescue missions.

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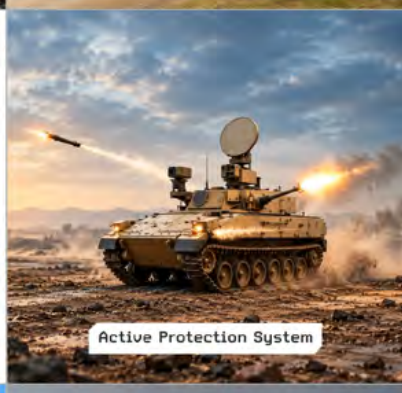
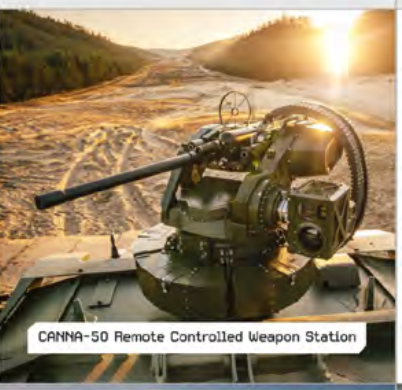

Active Protection System


CANNA-50 Remote Controlled Weapon Station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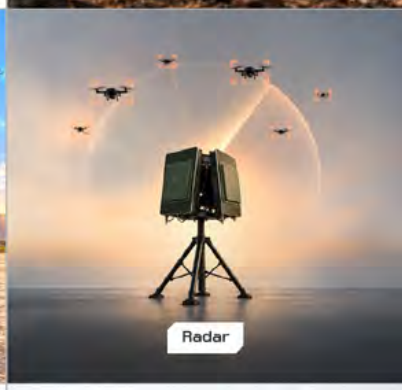
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ADSL Tusker - Light Bullet Proof Vehicle

PROFORCE HIGHLIGHTS PF TERMINATOR AT AFRIDEX

Proforce Limited is one of Nigeria's leading armoured vehicle manufacturers and this week it is showing its capabilities and products at Afridex 2026 in Lagos (Stand 4200), including the new PF Terminator 4x4 MRAP (mine-resistant ambush-protected) vehicle.







The company, incorporated in 2008 as a subsidiary of O'la-Kleen Holdings, comprises several subsidiaries, notably Proforce Land Systems, Proforce Intelligence Systems, Deto Shipyards, Proforce Air Systems, WMO Gadgets and Proforce Galaxies.

Its air systems subsidiary makes use of strategic partnerships to offer turnkey solutions and competencies, providing aerial platforms for ISR (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance). These include unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), trainer aircraft and other ancillary equipment for air defence operations.

In turn, Proforce Intelligence Systems seeks to address threats by means of sophisticated technology. This unit develops and produces various systems for homeland security, cyber security, border control and law enforcement.

WMO Gadgets provides high-quality tactical body armour for police, law enforcement and the military. Its body armour helmets and vests offer B3 and B4 level protection.

"With three facilities located in Nigeria, Dubai and India, Proforce leverages research and deep technical know-how to produce and develop products for the domestic and international markets, including the governments of Chad and Rwanda," the company stated. "We have recently provided cash-in-transit vehicles to Ghana, which incorporate the latest in materials and technologies. These include ballistic resistance, run-flat tyre systems, advanced suspension, and secure communications."

Besides its well-known PF Viper armoured personnel carrier (APC) and the PF Hulk 4x4 APC, as well as the larger PF Ara (Thunder) MRAP, Proforce Land Systems recently revealed the PF Terminator MRAP. It was on display in August at the Nigerian Army's CSS Training Week after its launch at the late June/early July Nigerian Army Day Celebration. Also on display was the command and control variant Proforce said was adopted by the Nigerian Army.

The PF Terminator all-wheel drive vehicle has a gross weight of 15 000 kg and is able to carry 12 personnel and 7 000 kg of payload. It boasts STANAG 4569 Level 2 protection against ballistic projectiles, improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and artillery fragments. With a Kamaz 667.310-310 inline six diesel engine producing 301 horsepower and 937 Nm torque, it has a top speed of 90 km/h. The vehicle is also fitted with a CTIS (central tyre inflation system), enabling it to traverse the toughest terrain for counter-terrorism and special operations. A 420 litre dual-fuel tank gives extended range.

Visitors to Afridex 2026 will be able to inspect the vehicle at close quarters, while Proforce also indicated that it will be taken through its paces during live demonstrations.

The Nigerian military has been investing heavily in indigenous armoured vehicles, to the extent that it had acquired a 15% stake in Proforce. At the same time, Proforce Land Systems has developed a large portfolio of domestic and international clients, including all divisions of the Nigerian military, police force, foreign embassies in Nigeria, and the United Nations (UN). The company's PF2 has been exported to Rwanda, the Central African Republic and South Sudan (it is used for United Nations peacekeeping missions in the CAR and South Sudan) while the Ara has been sold to the Nigerian Army and Chad and the Hulk to the Nigerian Army.

Thanks to its years of experience in the design and manufacture of armoured vehicles (including armoured civilian vehicles, buses and trucks), the company operates the Proforce Maintenance Repair and Overhaul (MRO) division to support its vehicles, wherever they operate. This facility extends the productive life and deployment of its vehicles and other defence equipment.

WE DO NOT JUST WANT TO SELL TO AFRICA; WE WANT TO BUILD WITH AFRICA - ADSL

Indian defence company Airbornics Defence & Space Pvt Ltd (ADSL) is bringing its joint-development model, legacy-fleet modernisation capabilities and latest defence solutions to Afridex 2026, emphasising its ambition to establish a permanent presence in Africa rather than pursue one-off sales.



"Our ambition extends beyond supplying products to the African market. We aim to establish a sustained presence through long-term partnerships and a strong regional network."

This long-term vision for the African market was among the key themes discussed by Rishi Aggarwal, Managing Director of JCBL Group, and Raj Kumar Pandey, Joint Managing Director of ADSL, in a conversation with DefenceWeb ahead of Afridex 2026.

The discussion explored ADSL's capabilities, its evolution, and its ambitions to become a trusted long-term partner to Africa's defence and security forces.

Established with a vision to advance indigenous aerospace and defence capabilities, ADSL serves as the dedicated aerospace and defence arm of the JCBL Group, which brings over four decades of industrial experience across diverse sectors, including defence. After gradually building up its capabilities, ADSL now works across what Pandey described as four verticals: Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul (MRO) and Sustenance; Aerial Delivery Systems; Land Systems; and Combat System Technology.

The company counts the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, and State Police forces among its growing customer base. ADSL's international growth has seen sustained momentum in recent years, following a landmark MoU between the company and Slovakia which includes the joint development and production of advanced military technologies such as turrets, remote-controlled weapon stations, and active protection systems.

AFRICA: A NATURAL PARTNER

As ADSL increasingly turns its attention to international markets, it has identified Africa as a strategic priority, not only for future sales but also for long-term partnerships. Pandey said ADSL had spent more than a year exploring the continent's security landscape and engaging with experts and potential partners in North and West Africa.

Accordingly, Pandey said that the continent's terrain, shared reliance on Russian military systems, and growing appetite for localisation and force modernisation in light of contemporary and future threats not only mirror India's own experience but also align with ADSL's expertise, making the company a natural partner for the continent.

ADSL has built up considerable experience and intellectual property in maintaining, refurbishing and modernising Russian-origin and other legacy systems for the Indian military, including T-72 tanks, BMP infantry





fighting vehicles and Shilka air defence systems. Pandey explained that the company could apply this expertise across Africa.

Pandey added that geopolitical disruptions had left many African countries struggling to obtain adequate support for their Russian-origin military systems. "They are not getting the right kind of support. So, we are there to support them, because we understand these technologies," he said.

MODERN WARFARE REQUIRES MODERN SOLUTIONS

ADSL's capabilities extend well beyond the MRO of legacy systems. In 2025, the company acquired a Slovakian company specialising in remote weapon stations, fire-control systems and stabilisation systems.

It now offers 7.62 mm, 12.7 mm and 30 mm remote weapon stations that can be fitted to both Russian and non-Russian platforms and configured to accommodate a range of anti-tank guided missiles or loitering munitions.

Indeed, the company has gone further, developing its own sophisticated anti-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) system capable of detecting and neutralising threats through both soft-kill and hard-kill options.

Pandey said much of the company's products sit at Technology Readiness Level 9 and have been certified and brought into service by the Indian security forces.

ADSL's wider offering includes aerial delivery systems for C-130, C-295 and C-17 aircraft, handling loads of about eight to 20 tons, along with strategic trailers, command-and-control and container-based solutions such as field offices, firing ranges and even data centres.

Joint development and long-term support

ADSL's value proposition rests on three pillars: customisation, localisation and long-term support. "We are not there just to push our products. Our idea is to understand the issues of African markets and give them the product which is apt for them," Pandey explained.

It is an approach that has been built on decades of experience across the Indian defence industrial landscape. Pandey argued that "it is better to have a joint development along with the customer", adding, "we started with a product-only approach, but we realised that is not the right approach."

ADSL has actively sought to localise around 60 to 90 per cent of its products in India. Pandey told DefenceWeb, "The way we did it, we took the technologies, and we customised it for the Indian markets, the same thing, we want to do it for the African markets."



Moreover, both Pandey and Aggarwal emphasised ADSL's long-term commitment to its customers. "No product normally fails because of its performance; they fail because of the after-sales support," Pandey said, explaining that ADSL is actively seeking local partners to train and equip to provide reliable, cost-effective, long-term support. This could include local maintenance and systems integration and, where financially viable, local manufacturing.

Aggarwal emphasised that providing reliable, affordable solutions to customers' actual problems is part of the company's DNA. "Our focus is on building a lasting presence in Africa through strong networks and long-term partnerships. We see the opportunity as much bigger than individual contracts, with our sights set on sustained collaboration and a long-term commitment to the region."

For more information, visit ADSL at stand 4215, Hall 3, or at https://adslglobal.com/

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SECURITY STARTS WITH PEOPLE: WHY COOPERATION, INTELLIGENCE AND TRAINING MATTER FOR AFRICA'S FUTURE

As African nations confront increasingly complex security threats, strengthening defence and law enforcement capabilities requires more than modern equipment. Intelligence gathering, professional training, regional cooperation and public trust are equally critical to building resilient security institutions.



Speaking ahead of Afridex 2026 in Lagos, Ambassador Chief Nwaukor Onochie Jude, Head of Africa Command at the International Police Academy (UNIPOL International Police University), outlined the security priorities facing the continent, the role of emerging technologies and the importance of developing skilled personnel.

He also discussed the ambitions of the Academy's newly established Africa Command and the opportunities Afridex presents for collaboration between African and international security stakeholders.

BUILDING AFRICA COMMAND

Jude explained that the International Police Academy was established to provide professional training for police officers, paramilitary personnel and civilians, while fostering cooperation between security agencies, governments, NGOs and international partners.

Registered in Kansas, United States, with an office in Belgium, the Academy recently launched Africa Command to extend its training expertise to the continent.

"Africa Command is still very new. We are currently engaging governments and relevant agencies, discussing

agreements and laying the groundwork for future activities," said Jude.

While operational training programmes have not yet commenced, the long-term vision is ambitious. Africa Command aims to establish a fully equipped training academy on the continent, capable of delivering specialist instruction and internationally recognised certifications to personnel from across Africa.

"Our goal is to bring together experienced serving and retired security professionals and make that expertise available to the next generation of security practitioners," said Jude.

ADDRESSING AFRICA'S PRESSING SECURITY PRIORITIES

Jude believes Afridex arrives at a critical moment for Africa's security landscape. Among the most urgent priorities, he identifies strengthening policing capabilities, enhancing intelligence gathering, securing borders and improving maritime protection.

"Police organisations are responsible for maintaining internal security, but they can only operate effectively when supported by strong intelligence capabilities," he said.

Without reliable intelligence, security agencies struggle to prevent criminal activity before it occurs. Investment in intelligence personnel, analytical systems and information-gathering capabilities is therefore essential.

Border security remains another major concern. Weak border controls can allow criminal organisations to move across territories, evade detection and exploit gaps between neighbouring countries' security systems.

Maritime security also demands greater attention. Piracy, smuggling and other threats require effective surveillance and stronger cooperation among coastal security agencies.

"Policing, intelligence, border security and maritime protection are deeply connected. Afridex creates an opportunity to examine how all four can be strengthened together," said Jude.

INTELLIGENCE SHARING IS THE FOUNDATION OF COOPERATION

Jude noted that the greatest opportunities for collaboration are in intelligence sharing. Defence forces, police services and intelligence agencies often face different aspects of the same threat environment. Effective communication between these organisations can dramatically improve their ability to prevent and respond to security incidents.

"If one agency gathers information that could assist another, that intelligence should be shared through the appropriate channels," he explained.

The same principle applies between neighbouring countries. Criminal networks do not respect national borders, making regional cooperation increasingly important.

Jude said security failures often arise not from an absence of information but from a failure to exchange it. Improving cooperation between military forces, law enforcement agencies and intelligence services therefore remains one of Africa's most significant opportunities to enhance security outcomes.

TACKLING CROSS-BORDER CRIME

Cross-border crime continues to challenge security agencies across Africa, particularly when countries fail to recognise their shared interests.

"Sometimes governments believe a particular security problem does not concern them because it is occurring elsewhere. But criminal activity can rapidly move across borders," said Jude.

Successfully addressing these threats requires both political commitment and operational coordination.

He pointed to the need for closer cooperation between immigration authorities, police services, drug enforcement agencies, intelligence units and military organisations. Each plays a different but complementary role in border management.

Immigration officials need systems to monitor movements across borders. Drug enforcement agencies require technologies capable of detecting illicit substances. Police and military organisations must have the resources to respond when threats are identified.

"Border security cannot succeed if one agency is well-equipped while another lacks the necessary tools, or if the organisations involved are not communicating with each other," he said.

TECHNOLOGY AS A FORCE MULTIPLIER

Emerging technologies are transforming how security organisations operate, and Jude believes African institutions must embrace these developments.

Artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, intelligence systems, forensic technologies, drug detection equipment and aerial surveillance capabilities all represent important investment areas.

Among the most promising technologies are drones, which have significantly expanded surveillance capabilities.

In major urban centres such as Lagos, maintaining visibility across vast areas can be challenging. Drones provide a practical way to monitor locations that would otherwise be difficult to cover using traditional patrols alone.

Information gathered through aerial surveillance can be analysed in real time and relayed to officers on the ground, enabling faster and more targeted responses.

The same capability can be deployed along national borders and in remote regions where traditional monitoring is more difficult. However, Jude cautioned against viewing technology as a substitute for personnel.

"A drone may identify a problem, but people are still needed to respond. Technology improves surveillance and response times, but it must be supported by trained personnel and effective operational structures," he explained.

INVESTING IN PEOPLE, NOT JUST EQUIPMENT

While modern equipment is important, Jude argued that training remains the single most important factor in developing effective security organisations.

"Purchasing sophisticated equipment achieves very little if people do not know how to use it properly," he said.

Specialisation is equally important. Intelligence analysts, forensic experts and frontline operational officers perform different functions and require different skill



sets. Organisations must ensure personnel are properly trained and deployed in roles aligned with their expertise.

Jude also believes the welfare of security personnel deserves greater attention. Officers operating in dangerous environments need confidence that their families will be supported and that their service is valued. Remuneration, working conditions and welfare programmes all influence morale and performance.

"When people feel unsupported, motivation suffers. Investment in security capabilities must include investment in the individuals responsible for delivering those capabilities," he pointed out.

EARNING PUBLIC TRUST

For Jude, public confidence remains one of the most important measures of a security institution's effectiveness.

Security organisations exist to protect citizens, and that responsibility requires professionalism, accountability and respect for human rights.

Misconduct by individual officers can have consequences far beyond a single incident, damaging confidence in entire institutions.

"When people go to a police station seeking help, they should be treated fairly and respectfully. If they are intimidated or mistreated, trust is quickly lost," he said.

Human rights, accountability and ethical conduct must therefore remain central to security operations.

Jude believes security personnel should serve as role models, demonstrating integrity and professionalism regardless of rank or position.

"Capabilities can be strengthened through equipment and training, but public trust depends on how those capabilities are used," he said.

AFRIDEX AS A CATALYST FOR LONG-TERM PARTNERSHIPS

As Africa Command prepares to engage with governments and security institutions across the continent, Jude sees Afridex as an important platform for relationship-building. The event provides opportunities to meet defence officials, government representatives and potential partners interested in the Academy's training initiatives.

"We want organisations to understand our objectives, the expertise we can offer and how specialist training can contribute to developing security personnel," he said.

One of the organisation's long-term ambitions is to establish a permanent academy in Africa, complete with training facilities, administrative infrastructure and the resources required to deliver professional programmes.

More broadly, Jude believes Afridex should focus on fostering partnerships that continue long after the exhibition concludes. Maintaining dialogue, tracking progress and creating mechanisms for ongoing engagement can help ensure that conversations translate into practical cooperation.

His message to delegates is that no country or institution can address today's security challenges alone.

"Security is everyone's responsibility. If we strengthen cooperation, improve intelligence sharing and work together across borders and organisations, we will be in a far stronger position to protect our communities and address the challenges facing Africa," Jude concluded.

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EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT ON THE WATER

With nations increasingly relying on rigid-hulled inflatable boats (RHIBs) in support of maritime security, riverine operations, naval patrol, and law enforcement on water, ASIS Boats (Stand 4006) is showcasing its highly sought-after boats at Afridex 2026 this week.



The exhibition follows the company's participation in the Seapower for Africa Symposium (SPAS) in Lagos in June this year.

"Our rigid-hulled inflatable boats (RHIBs) are built for specific missions, serving military, government and professional operators around the world," said Mario Hoyek, Business Development Manager. "ASIS Boats has delivered 28 boats across Africa in 2026, including two to the Nigeria Customs Service just last month."

According to the company, it builds every rigid-hulled inflatable boat for specific mission applications. Offering various selections, seating configurations, and accessories, ASIS Boats can provide complete customisation of every aspect of the RHIB to fit a customer's specific needs.

The pair of 6.5 m RHIBs delivered to the Nigeria Customs Service is configured to support enforcement operations across Nigeria's waterways. Each boat, delivered with navigation, communication and safety systems installed, is powered by twin Yamaha 100 hp four-stroke outboard engines, allowing a top speed of 30 knots, and is able to carry up to nine personnel. The vessels feature deep-V fiberglass hulls paired with heavy-duty Hypalon 1670 dtex inflatable tubes. Their construction includes non-slip decks, triple fender strakes and reinforced cone ends.

The 20-year-old Dubai-based company prides itself on having delivered boats to more than 80 countries and over 50 government agencies over the years. Each boat is built to order around its mission, from the hull and Hypalon or PU tubes to propulsion and mission-specific equipment.

Hypalon is technically known as Chlorosulfonated Polyethylene (CSM), which offers superior UV (ultra-violet) resistance, chemical tolerance, structural durability, and a significantly longer service life.

As the company explained: "For military, coast guard, and SAR operators running vessels 200+ days per year in UV-intense or chemically harsh environments, Hypalon is not a luxury; it's an operational requirement."

From 2024 to date ASIS Boats has delivered eleven 9.5 m RHIBs to the Indonesian Navy. "We announced the latest delivery, comprising four vessels, in July 2026, which followed the delivery of five boats in 2025 and an initial order in 2024," Hoyek stated. "The operational configuration of these boats includes Ullman shock-mitigating jockey seats on rails, weapon mounts and a modular deck layout."

The 9.5 m boats delivered in 2025 feature reinforced deep-V fiberglass hulls with push knees, self-draining non-skid decks and Neoprene/Hypalon 1670 dtex tubes. Propulsion is provided by twin Yamaha 300 HP

four-stroke outboard engines with hydraulic steering. Garmin navigation and radar systems, alongside secure communications equipment, support coordination during missions.

Following the 2025 delivery, ASIS specialists conducted on-site operator training for the Indonesian Navy crews.

ASIS Boats are trusted by military organisations, oil and gas companies, marine and tour operators, and law enforcement agencies for their reliable, high-quality construction.

Last November ASIS Boats delivered 13 fully customised 9.5 m firefighting boats to NAFFCO, the UAE-based National Fire-Fighting Manufacturing Company. Each vessel has been designed and manufactured from Marine Grade Aluminium 5086, renowned for its exceptional strength, corrosion resistance, and durability in the harshest marine conditions.

Another innovative solution is the company's amphibious boat system, which consists of motorised, retractable, and steerable wheels that ensure off-water capabilities. This enables driving straight onto any beach, thus obviating the need for a trailer to move the boat into and out of the water. The entire system is marinised and stays completely out of the water while underway. It is available as an option for all ASIS boats ranging from 5.1 m to 12 m.





TATA ADVANCED SYSTEMS LIMITED GAINING A FOOTHOLD IN AFRICA

One year ago, it was reported that Indian conglomerate Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) was opening an armoured vehicle production plant in Morocco. Hyderabad-based TASL, part of the Tata Group, is this week showing some of its innovative technologies, including the African-built vehicle, at Afridex 2026 in Lagos (stand 5034).



The Moroccan facility was established to produce TASL's 8x8 wheeled armoured platform (WhAP) following a 2024 agreement for the supply of 150 vehicles. The first WhAP was handed over to the Royal Moroccan Army in December last year. By establishing the 20 000 square metre manufacturing plant in Morocco - the first overseas defence factory by a private Indian company - TASL neatly aligns with the North African country's aim to grow its own defence industry. These vehicles could also be exported across Africa. Apart from the WhAP, plans are afoot to also produce TASL's Light Armoured Multi-Role Vehicle (LAMV) there.

The formidable portfolio of 20-year-old TASL covers aerostructures, aero-engines, airborne platforms and systems, defence and security, as well as land mobility products and services.

Its flagship product, the WhAP 8x8 wheeled armoured platform, is India's first amphibious infantry combat vehicle in wheeled configuration. According to the company, it has developed the system by "benchmarking its features with some of the best-in-class products across the globe" and evaluated its performance through rigorous trials in extreme conditions and terrain.

TASL stated that it was designed jointly with India's DRDO (Defence Research & Development Organisation) for optimal survivability, all-terrain performance and increased lethality. "Modularity and scalability help this platform to be easily customised to cater to various missions and operation conditions."

The 24 tonne WhAP accommodates a crew of three plus nine to 11 infantry soldiers. It is powered by a 600 hp Cummins ISX/ISXe engine paired with an Allison 4500SP automatic transmission, giving a top road speed of 100 km/h and a range of 500 km. Rear-mounted water jets give an amphibious swimming speed of up to 10 km/h.

The WhAP features modular composite/steel armour meeting STANAG 4569 (Levels 1 to 4) and mine blast resistance rated at Level 3. It can be configured with a 30 mm cannon, 7.62 mm remote controlled weapon stations, automatic grenade launcher, or anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) systems.

Adhering to the philosophy of 'Make in India', the company offers a vast range of military vehicles, ranging from 4x4 MRAP (mine-resistant ambush-protected) vehicles, ambulances and troop carriers to a family of large trucks. The Tata LPTA family is available in configurations from 4x4 through 6x6 to 12x12. Some of these have also been supplied to Morocco.

Besides land mobility platforms, TASL has long been involved with the likes of Lockheed Martin, Sikorsky and Airbus to manufacture aerostructures and components of C-130 Hercules/C-130J Super Hercules, Sikorsky S-92 and C-295 platforms for the Indian Air Force. The company also produced wings for the F-16 Fighting Falcon and fuselages for Boeing's AH-64 Apache helicopters.

TASL's defence and security division manufactures artillery systems, rocket and missile launchers, air defence systems, C4I, radars, optronics, and cybersecurity systems.

HAVELSAN EXPANDING PARTNERSHIP WITH NIGERIA

With an eye on building upon its existing partnerships with Nigeria, the Turkish Armed Forces Foundation company Havelsan is at Afridex 2026 this week (Stand 2117 in the Türkiye Pavilion).

Sevket Ünal, Havelsan Vice President for International Business Development and Marketing, is scheduled to address the panel 'From Partnership to Production – Advancing Türkiye–Nigeria Defence Industry Cooperation' on Wednesday, 28 October, at 09:45.

"Havelsan is here at Afridex 2026 to meet military delegations, government representatives and industry partners to discuss operational requirements and opportunities for cooperation across Nigeria and Africa," the company said in a statement. "Our expertise spans command and control, simulation and training, autonomous unmanned systems, information and communication technologies, and cybersecurity."

Established in 1982, Havelsan develops software-intensive technologies for defence, public institutions and the private sector. A central capability is the integration of platforms, sensors and systems from different suppliers, helping customers to build on existing investments.

Havelsan's relationship with Nigeria includes exports of the company's ADVENT Combat Management System (CMS), developed in conjunction with the Turkish Navy, which supports coordinated operations across different domains. It connects multiple platforms through a common operational picture, rather than serving as a combat management system for a single ship.

"This system was developed to meet the evolving requirements of customers and effectively address the challenges of modern naval operations. ADVENT CMS is a unique and pioneering solution that addresses the demands of force-oriented, network-centric naval operations, as opposed to traditional single ship-centric approaches," Havelsan said.

Importantly, its scalable architecture accommodates different platform sizes and operational requirements, while integrated tactical data links support information sharing and coordination during joint missions. The ADVENT CMS has been fitted to the two 76 metre offshore patrol vessels built by Turkish shipyard Dearsan for the Nigerian Navy. Havelsan also supplied its GVDS ship data distribution system for these vessels.

Havelsan also provided the BAHA autonomous unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) and shooting simulators to Nigeria, having delivered two 10-lane shooting simulator systems to the Nigerian Army and BAHA UAVs as part of a border security initiative.

The company designates it 'Digital Troops', the portfolio that includes the BAHA autonomous UAV, BARKAN unmanned ground vehicle and SANCAR armed unmanned surface vehicle. These platforms support missions across air, land and maritime environments, including reconnaissance, surveillance and protection. Their autonomy and integration capabilities support coordinated operations involving manned and unmanned assets.

While the Digital Troops concept brings together autonomous and mission-management capabilities to support unmanned aerial, ground and maritime platforms operating together, Havelsan's training portfolio covers shooting, sniper, tank, armoured vehicle, parachute and urban operations training, alongside electronic warfare test and training ranges and wargaming solutions.

The company has also provided Nigeria with simulation and training solutions. Its Shooting Simulator enables individual and team exercises using realistic scenarios that provide repeatable weapons training in a controlled environment without live ammunition.

"Integrated border security is a key focus for discussions in Nigeria," Havelsan said. "Our Integrated Border Security System uses DOOB command-and-control capabilities to provide a comprehensive operational picture. Our critical facility security solutions address the protection of infrastructure such as oil and gas pipelines and related facilities."

The DOOB joint command and control system integrates information from UAVs, sensors, cameras, and communication devices, offering a real-time overview of the border area. It empowers border security forces to make informed decisions and take timely actions.

Whilst this software enables Havelsan to combine surveillance, detection and response coordination in support of border protection and critical infrastructure security, its wider digital portfolio includes biometric identification, smart city applications, digital transformation and cybersecurity solutions.

Havelsan's MATRA digital maritime solution supports coastal surveillance, vessel traffic management and port management. By combining information from radar, Automatic Identification Systems, cameras and other sources, it provides a real-time view of vessel movements. Tracking, identification and decision-support capabilities help maritime authorities monitor their areas of responsibility and identify potential risks.

In essence, Havelsan's extensive portfolio supports coordination across land, maritime and air operations. Its Nigeria partnerships provide a foundation for further cooperation in naval operations, reconnaissance and surveillance, and personnel training. "Discussions with local industry will also explore joint production, technology sharing and long-term support arrangements tailored to customer requirements," Havelsan concluded.



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03 Exoskeleton Light Cavalry
04 Tactical Vehicle Deployment (Mengshi / Badger)
05 Mixed-Light Land Mothership

Supporting Subsystems

01 AI-Assisted Decision
02 Sand Table
03 Secure Data Link
04 Modular Payload
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FROM SPARE PARTS TO SOVEREIGN CAPABILITY: AFRICA'S DEFENCE MANUFACTURING OPPORTUNITY

An interview with Kayode Adeleke, Group Chief Executive Officer at Arridex



For defence operators, access to a replacement component can determine how quickly equipment returns to service. Developing the capacity to manufacture that component locally has implications for operational readiness, engineering skills and the resilience of supply chains.

Arridex, formerly RusselSmith, is exhibiting at Afridex 2026 to showcase its growing manufacturing capabilities and unveil a new range of autonomous platforms. For Group Chief Executive Officer Kayode Adeleke, the exhibition is also an opportunity to engage defence leaders and international companies in partnerships that support Africa's industrial development.

In this interview, he discusses the company's partnership with the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON), the role of advanced manufacturing and what is needed to translate industrial ambition into lasting capability.

WHAT PROMPTED THE TRANSITION FROM RUSSELSMITH TO ARRIDEX?

Our name changed because the work we were doing had changed. Over more than two decades, we built a record in asset integrity and engineering services, completing more than 1 000 projects. During that period, we also developed the capability to design, manufacture and sustain critical technologies ourselves. The new identity reflects that evolution and the broader scope of the organisation.

Today, we are an industrial technology company headquartered in Lagos, Nigeria, with a continental focus and a commitment to global standards. Our operational experience remains the foundation of the business, but our ambitions have expanded into advanced manufacturing and autonomous systems. Arridex represents the organisation we have become and the direction we are taking.

HOW WILL YOUR PARTNERSHIP WITH DICON SUPPORT NIGERIA'S DEFENCE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT?

Our partnership with the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria, DICON, is carried through Helagon, our defence subsidiary and joint venture company. It has three principal objectives: reducing dependence on imported defence systems, building indigenous technical capability for sustainment within the armed forces, and positioning Nigeria as a credible manufacturer and exporter of sovereign defence technologies.

DICON brings its statutory mandate and reach across the services. We contribute engineering expertise, industrial 3D manufacturing capabilities and the ability to design, develop and manufacture autonomous systems. Together, the focus is on delivering platforms and components that can be built and supported within Nigeria, with the technical knowledge required to sustain them throughout their operational life.

WHAT DOES THE OMNIFACTORY IN LAGOS OFFER DEFENCE MANUFACTURERS AND EQUIPMENT OPERATORS?

The Omnifactory brings together multiple industrial 3D manufacturing technologies, with capabilities that include producing military grade metal parts, high performance polymer components and large structures, including vessel hulls. For defence operators, this offers a way to address maintenance requirements that might otherwise depend on lengthy international supply chains.

A grounded vehicle, an ageing vessel or an obsolete component can create a considerable challenge when the required spare has to be imported. The ability to produce

that component locally can change the economics of readiness. It gives operators another route to sustaining assets and helps address the delays associated with obtaining specialist or legacy parts.

WHY IS RETAINING DESIGN AUTHORITY IN NIGERIA IMPORTANT?

Holding design authority here means our engineers in Lagos can design, print, integrate and sustain our platforms. It also enables us to manufacture critical components required by assets already in service with the armed forces. This places the engineering knowledge behind those capabilities within the country and strengthens our ability to respond to technical requirements.

Training Nigerian engineers and technicians is an essential part of that approach. They need the expertise to work with advanced systems and sustain the capabilities being established. Developing that knowledge alongside production capacity helps localise the work and reduces vulnerability to global supply chain disruptions.

HOW CAN ADVANCED MANUFACTURING AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES IMPROVE OPERATIONAL READINESS?

Industrial 3D manufacturing and digital technologies can turn aspects of readiness from a logistics problem into a manufacturing capability. We can create digital spares and components and produce them when and where they are required. This changes how we approach the availability of parts and the support of equipment.

These technologies also allow us to build platforms that we previously did not have the capability to produce. Autonomous systems are one example, with applications in surveillance across coastlines, borders and critical infrastructure. They can extend operational reach, often at a lower cost and with reduced risk to personnel in the operational environment.

WHERE ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR NIGERIAN COMPANIES IN INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE SUPPLY CHAINS?

The opportunity is significant, but it begins with qualification. Global prime contractors need reliable partners for production, maintenance and the fulfilment of offset obligations. Nigerian companies seeking to participate must meet the relevant international quality and security standards, particularly if they want to contribute to global programmes as well as supply customers across Africa.

Our focus is on producing critical parts and components that meet those requirements and developing relationships with partners whose capabilities we can integrate with. As competence grows, those relationships can open opportunities to undertake more complex work, expand our network and contribute greater value to the defence sector.

WHAT SHOULD INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIPS DELIVER FOR AFRICAN INDUSTRY?

Industrial sovereignty does not mean manufacturing everything independently. No country does that, and international partnerships are essential. What matters is that those relationships provide meaningful technology transfer and develop skills that enable local engineers and technicians to contribute beyond assembly.

A real partnership should build the expertise needed to sustain and extend the capabilities being introduced. That is the basis on which we seek to work with leading international technology companies. Alongside those relationships, we are developing specialist workforces that can carry the industry forward into the next generation.

WHAT WOULD HELP ACCELERATE NIGERIA'S DEFENCE MANUFACTURING DEVELOPMENT?

Two areas stand out: patient capital and clear qualification pathways. Industrial development requires long term finance that matches the scale and scope of the investment. Manufacturing capability takes time to establish, so access to capital on suitable terms is important. The DICON Act 2023 provides a foundation, but consistent implementation will determine how effectively it supports industrial growth.

Manufacturers also need recognised routes to demonstrate that their products meet the required standards. Clear qualification processes can address questions about quality and give customers a sound basis for evaluating locally developed equipment. Strengthening those pathways would support acceptance within Africa and help Nigerian companies compete internationally.

WHAT ARE ARRIDEX'S PRIORITIES OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS?

Our first priority is to scale manufacturing capacity. We are targeting the commissioning of our Mega Omnifactory in the first half of 2027, followed by further expansion across the continent through distributed additive manufacturing.

Our second priority is sovereign autonomy: designing, developing and manufacturing autonomous systems within this region so that more of the engineering capability and value are created here. The third is developing the engineers and technicians who will sustain that growth. Together, these priorities support our ambition to position Africa as a more substantial participant in the global defence industry.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACHIEVE AT AFRIDEX 2026, AND WHAT MESSAGE WILL YOU BRING TO DEFENCE LEADERS AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS?

We are exhibiting to show what is already possible. At Afridex, we intend to unveil a new range of autonomous platforms and demonstrate that defence technologies can be designed, manufactured and sustained here by African engineers working to global standards. We want defence leaders, government representatives and industry stakeholders to see those capabilities and engage with the work being developed.

We are also inviting experienced international defence companies to explore partnerships with us. There is considerable talent in this region, and an opportunity to combine that talent with established technical expertise to develop the industry further. Our message is that, through those partnerships, we can build systems that are engineered in Africa, sustained in Africa and trusted internationally.

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