

FT News, Education

HK on the shortlist for aerospace spectacle

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South China Morning Post

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Hong Kong is among a handful of cities shortlisted to host the **Asian Aerospace** civilian and military air show from 2008, an event that could contribute as much as \$2 billion to the local economy every two years.

According to an executive close to the negotiations, Hong Kong is in a tight race with Shanghai and Bangkok to host the event, widely seen as the world's No3 air show behind Paris, and Farnborough in England. This year's event, organised by Reed Exhibitions, is being held from February 21 in Singapore and a decision on its successor is expected before then.

"There is recognition within Reed that they have to move with the market and one of the locations they are considering is Hong Kong. But there have also been strong proposals from Shanghai and Bangkok, in particular," the executive said.

The Thai government is said to be willing to pay to host **Asian Aerospace**, which it would use to showcase Bangkok's new US\$3.7 billion international airport after it opens later this year.

A spokesman for Reed Exhibitions in Singapore would not confirm the frontrunners yesterday.

"[We] are in active negotiations with several alternative locations {hellip} and will make an announcement about the future location of **Asian Aerospace** as soon as we are able to conclude negotiations," he said.

Shanghai is also thought to be a strong contender because of the mainland's increasing aircraft purchases and its attractiveness to delegates.

The Hong Kong entry may have an Achilles heel, however. It is thought the city may have had to enter a joint bid with Zhuhai due to the sensitive nature of holding a military trade show in Hong Kong. Airport Authority executives did not return phone calls yesterday.

The Straits Times

INCORPORATED IN SINGAPORE

Singapore

Is Asian Aerospace heading for Hong Kong?

David Boey

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Straits Times

English

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Deal likely for 2008, say sources; air show ends its run here next month

HONG KONG has emerged as a strong contender to be the new host city of the **Asian Aerospace** air show in 2008 after its last show in Singapore next month, according to aviation and defence industry sources.

Although neither the show's organisers nor the Hong Kong company running the venue would confirm the move, talk in the industry is rife that a deal is close.

Hong Kong's US\$300 million (S\$489 million) AsiaWorld-Expo site dwarfs the **Asian Aerospace's** current show site at the Changi Exhibition Centre, which is near Changi Village.

AsiaWorld's 70,000 sq m of rentable space is sited a few minutes' stroll from Hong Kong International Airport.

The brand new facility, opened on Dec 21 last year, is some three times bigger than **Asian Aerospace's** current exhibition halls and the new show site being built on reclaimed land facing Pulau Tekong in Changi North.

Asian Aerospace, the world's third biggest air show, has been held in Singapore for the past 25 years. Next month's show, which takes place from Feb 21 to 26, will be the 13th and last **Asian Aerospace** to be held here.

London-based Reed Exhibitions, which owns the **Asian Aerospace** brand, decided last October to move the show elsewhere after it could not agree with the Government on the development of a new site for the air show.

Industry sources said moving the show to Hong Kong would give aviation companies taking part ready access to China's booming aviation sector.

Reed said last week that it would work with the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electronic Products to invite Chinese aviation companies to **Asian Aerospace** next month.

The company cited a study by European airliner maker Airbus, which estimates that over the next 10 years, Chinese passenger traffic will grow by 9.1 per cent and freight traffic will increase by 9 per cent annually.

'Such strong growth expected in the Chinese aviation sector has propelled China onto the global aviation map, and into the air show circuit's list of priority customers,' Reed said.

However, it was too early to talk of the air show's move to Hong Kong.

The spokesman explained that the search for a replacement venue for **Asian Aerospace** has 'demanded a significant degree of due diligence' and is continuing.

Equally tight-lipped was Mr Kenneth Chan, marketing communications manager of AsiaWorld-Expo Management, who said: 'As a general practice, any confirmed events are announced by respective organisers.'

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HONG KONG, Jan 24 (Reuters) - These are some of the leading stories in Hong Kong newspapers on Tuesday. Reuters has not verified these stories and does not vouch for their accuracy.

SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST

-- Hong Kong is among a handful of cities shortlisted to host the **Asian Aerospace** civilian and military air show from 2008. Hong Kong is in a tight race with Shanghai and Bangkok to host the event, according to a source.

-- The government has approved a bid from Atos Origin to deliver a seven-year, HK\$253 million (US\$32.4 million) data centre outsourcing facility, one of the largest IT services contracts awarded in the public sector in the past three years.