

Russians to ferry Armcor to Dubai show

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By ROGER MAKINGS

ARMSCOR will lease a Russian Antonov 124 cargo jet to fly its Rooivalk attack helicopter and controversial Ovid trainer to the Dubai air show next month.

An Armcor spokesman says no aircraft in South Africa is big enough to carry the 47 tons of equipment for the show.

About 30 SA companies will display aircraft, missiles, avionics and remote-piloted vehicles and drones.

Armcor is optimistic that orders will be received ahead of the lifting of UN sanctions on trade with SA in military equipment.

Hopes are high for both the Ovid trainer, now known as ACE (All Composite Evaluator) and the R40-million Rooivalk.

The ACE, former contender to replace the SAAF's Harvard trainers, was designed by CSIR as a technology demonstrator. It was so successful that builder Denel believes it has a good chance of evoking international interest.

The missile, rocket and cannon-firing Rooivalk compares favourably with its American, Russian and European counterparts and has an outstanding chance of finding international favour.