

Torino-Piemonte: Italy's Industrial Aerospace Hub

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The Piemonte region in northwestern Italy is presenting 10 aerospace companies as part of the Italian pavilion here. Supported by the Torino Chamber of Commerce and Piemonte Regional Authority, Torino's Piemonte Aerospace project provides access to 66 aerospace and defense enterprises operating in the region.

"The overall exports generated by Piemonte aerospace industries increased last year by 36.6% exceeding €730 million," said Alessandro Barberis, president of the Torino Chamber of Commerce. The project also launched an initiative to establish new marketing events in the region. The recent Aerospace & Defense Meetings held in Torino in March 2008 hosted 1,500 professionals from companies like Finmeccanica, Alenia Aeronautica, Aermacchi, Piaggio Aero, Thales Alenia Space, Selex Galileo, Agusta Westland, Boeing, EADS, Dassault Aviation, Northrop Grumman, Tupolev, Messier Dowty, Avio, Pratt & Whitney, Microtecnica and Elbit Systems.

Italy's aeronautical and space sector is one of the nation's leading high technology industries. Seventh in the world and fourth in Europe, it boasts a turnover of €6.1 billion and a workforce comprising 38,000 high-qualified employees. In particular, Piemonte — especially the area surrounding its capital city of Torino, where five of Italy's largest aerospace companies are based (Alenia Aeronautica, Avio Group, Microtecnica,

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—Alessandro Barberis, president of the Torino Chamber of Commerce

Selex, Thales Alenia Space) — employs 7,000 people and generates a turnover of €13 billion. Supporting the big names are some 400 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) employing an additional 3,000 employees and generating a turnover of €500 million in the aerospace industry alone. Piemonte's aerospace industry has become internationally renowned. In fact, it is not just the large companies, the market leaders, who are present on overseas markets: More than half the local SMEs boast foreign buyers, from Europe and beyond, among their clients. In many cases, their international presence takes the form of agreements, whether purely for commercial ends,

production or for the exchange of know-how, and sometimes it also includes the creation of branches and units abroad.

—Tamir Eshel