

► Secures 1st export deal for fifth-generation fighter

Russia's Su-57 charms Airshow China 2024

By Yang Sheng in Zhuhai

Su-57 is one of the world's few fifth-generation stealth fighter jets of the world, and this marks the first appearance of Russia's most advanced military aircraft at the biennial Airshow China in Zhuhai, South China's Guangdong Province, and with the impressive flight performance, it has attracted wide attention at the event.

As part of its promotion campaign for Su-57E ("E" means export), Alexander Mikheev, director general of Rosoboronexport, Russia's only state-controlled intermediary for the export and import of military and dual-use products, told the Global Times that "we are holding technical consultations with a number of Russia's strategic partners. We are discussing both deliveries of final products from Russia and cooperation within joint development and production projects."

Rosoboronexport has signed the first contracts to deliver the export version of the Su-57 fifth-generation fighter jet to foreign customers at the

airshow, according to TASS.

Russia has sent two Su-57 jets to Airshow China 2024, with one attending flight performance in the air, and the other presenting a static display to let military delegates worldwide and media, as well as audiences to have a close look. Su-57 and its legend pilot Sergey Bogdan have gained a large fan following not only at the airshow but also among Chinese social media due to the fantastic flight performance.

Standing next to the Su-57E on static display at the airshow, "Mike," a staff member of Rosoboronexport, told the Global Times that the fighter jet "comprises the best technical performances and fully complies with the fifth generation criteria which include the supersonic cruise flight mode, low radar and infrared signature. It has high noise immunity while operating in a contested air environment and it has one of the most advanced and powerful element complexes specifically designed and integrated on the fighter jet."

Mikheev told the Global Times

that Airshow China a landmark event for Rosoboronexport. It was in Zhuhai that the Russian special exporter, established on November 4, 2000, first showcased its products. That is why we are pleased to organize the premiere show of the Su-57E fifth-generation multi-role fighter here, where our aircraft can be seen and appreciated by Russia's key partners. We are exhibiting here the latest guided missiles and air bombs for fifth-generation fixed-wing aircraft and attack helicopters, Mikheev said.

Song Zhongping, a Chinese military expert, told the Global Times that the airshow provides an open platform for all its partners to share their latest achievement in defense industry, aviation and other relevant fields, including Russia, so this is why Russia sees it as a significant opportunity to allow more countries to view and learn about its products, especially when it's still suffering from Western sanctions. "Su-57's appearance at the airshow also provides China a great opportunity to make exchanges with the Russians," Song noted.

Large unmanned stealth combat vessel, surface drone group displayed at airshow

By Ma Jun and Liu Xuanzun in Zhuhai

In addition to exhibiting aviation, aerospace, and land equipment, the ongoing Airshow China 2024 also gives a glimpse into China's naval and maritime equipment, including a large unmanned vessel and a surface drone group.

The Orca unmanned stealth combat vessel debuted at the second exhibition area of Airshow China. Its trimaran design provides high speed, stability and an expanded deck area despite its limited displacement.

Officially designated as the JARI-USV-A large unmanned combat vessel, the Orca measures 58 meters in length, 23 meters in beam width, and 4 meters in depth, has a full displacement of 420 tons, a maximum speed of 40 knots, and a range of 4,000 nautical miles, according to data released by the China State Shipbuilding Corporation Limited.

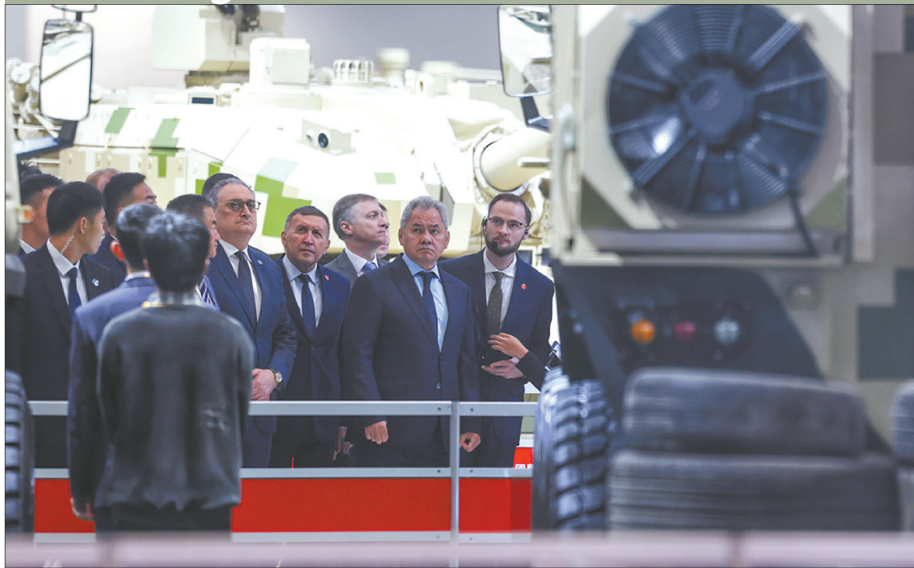
The Global Times learned that the Orca prioritizes stealth capabilities. It is equipped with a remote-controlled weapon station at its bow, which can be stowed under the deck when needed to maintain a streamlined surface. The bridge of the unmanned ship has a four-unit vertical launch system for missiles, and which can be expanded to 12 units if required, according to a scale model of the Orca, which is displayed at the airshow in addition to the genuine vessel.

It is also equipped with several phased array radars to enhance its detection capabilities for both aerial and maritime targets. In addition, the Orca has a flight deck at its stern that can host unmanned helicopters enabling various missions, such as anti-submarine warfare and patrol operations.

Another Chinese exhibitor, Yunzhou Tech, displayed a surface drone formation at the airshow, as four of its unmanned boats showcased impressive maneuverability in water-based operations. In a demonstration session, the four unmanned boats shifted between formations like side-by-side, straight-line, and S-shape, as they demonstrated their ability to assault floating targets and intercept fast-moving surface targets.

All the surface drones displayed are mass-produced models, the Global Times learned from Yunzhou Tech. The demonstrations showed daily mission scenarios of marine police and maritime safety administrations, and reflected the surface drone formation's capability to collaborate. This level of collaboration is challenging, as the unmanned boats need to adjust movement and navigation based on environmental factors before developing plans to complete mission objectives.

► PLA booth guest



Sergei Shoigu, secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council (second from right), visits Airshow China 2024 on November 14, 2024. Shoigu visited the weaponry hall, where he learned about the development of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy at the PLA Navy's exhibition booth, the aerospace hall and other exhibition halls. He is in China for the 19th round of the annual China-Russia strategic security consultations.

Photo: Cui Meng/GT

Newly unveiled light arms, robo-wolf bring versatility, tactical power

By Yang Sheng and Liu Xuanzun in Zhuhai

China has introduced a wide selection of light arms and a groundbreaking development in military technology: robo-wolf, at Airshow China 2024. The gun series and the multi-function quadruped anti-terrorism robots are designed to bring new levels of versatility and tactical power to modern warfare.

The state-owned China South Industries Group Corpo-

ration (CSGC) exhibited guns in the Type 20 series, which have been modified to be able to fire different calibers of bullets, including 7.62mm, 5.8mm and 5.56mm, to suit the needs of different users from around the world, the Global Times learned from the CSGC at the airshow.

Some of the widely known guns in the Type 20 series, such as the QBZ-191 auto rifle, was redesignated as the CS/LR43 for the 7.62mm version and the QBU-191 precision rifle

was redesignated as the CS/LR44 for the 7.62mm version.

Another star item on display is a type of multi-function quadruped anti-terrorism robot called the Grey Wolf. It can be dispatched in combat units such as individual teams and special operations squads for urban warfare, border patrol and sniping missions. It can pass through complex terrains, has high stealth, high accuracy even against moving targets and can carry different modules for different functions, including

Type 191 series rifles, Type 171 sub-machine guns and sniper rifles, according to the developer. The advanced robots used to be called "robo-dogs" but now they have transformed into "wolves," because now they can operate like a pack of wolves in combat, working effectively as a team to accomplish complicated missions rather than working independently.

The Grey Wolf will work with the soldiers in the mission so that it can prevent casualties. Furthermore, the soldiers,

or the person who controls the "wolves" can help them avoid making any mistakes during the mission, said an employee of the developer. "For instance, when it carries out a hostage rescue mission, the special force soldiers can see everything from the screen of the controller to make sure it only shoots at terrorists, and doesn't shoot at non-hostile targets."

