

Paris Air Show: European UAV market worth EUR4.9 billion

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Paris Air Show

Europe is expected to be the world's third-largest unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) market over the next decade behind the US and the Asia-Pacific region, according a new market survey of the continent's military UAV requirements conducted by consulting firm Frost & Sullivan.

The UAV marketplace is strongly represented at the Paris Air Show. Dozens of companies are present, including US leaders in UAVs such as Boeing, General Atomics, Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman. Israeli UAV specialists Elbit Systems and IAI Malat are present in strength, and European companies Dassault, EADS, Finmeccanica, Sagem and Thales are also displaying their products.

London-based analyst Shai Shammai told the Shephard Unmanned Vehicles conference immediately before the Paris Air Show that the European military UAV market would show 11 per cent growth between 2005 and 2014 - a total of around EUR4.9 billion (US\$5.93 billion). This does not include unmanned combat air vehicles, which are not expected to arrive until later in the next decade.

According to Shammai, the largest segment of the market involves tactical UAVs and would be worth around EUR2.3 billion, with peak demand coming in 2008-2011 as several nations replaced the existing fleets of this class of UAV.

