Boeing, Aerosud Discuss Parts Manufacturing Opportunities In Support Of South African Strategic Partnership Agreement

As evidence of its commitment to its recently signed strategic partnership agreement with the Republic of South Africa, Boeing announced today that it is in discussions with Aerosud (PTY) Ltd. regarding manufacturing opportunities for parts for use across the range of Boeing airplane models.

The discussions could lead to Aerosud developing a new parts manufacturing operations near Pretoria, providing high-technology aviation job opportunities supported by training and capital investment by the world's leading aerospace company. The two companies expect to complete negotiations in the next few months and announce specifics at that time. It could result in a new facility beginning operation as soon as December of this year.

On June 15 of this year, Boeing and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) announced a strategic partnership agreement to develop and assist in the continued growth of the South African economy and support the development of the local industry.

"South Africa is very important to Boeing," said Doug Groseclose, vice president International Sales - Boeing Commercial Airplanes. "Our strategic partnership agreement opened the door for Boeing to provide immediate opportunities that support the development of the local South African aviation industry, and we're very excited to be working together with Aerosud to begin to accomplish this."

The agreement allows Boeing to offer contracts that are focused on creating employment opportunities, providing technical assistance and supply capital equipment.

"Providing more business solutions and support in countries around the world is a very important and growing area of our business," Groseclose said. "Investing in capital equipment and developing employee-based training shows our commitment to South Africa."

Aerosud has more than 10 years of experience providing aeronautical engineering solutions to the aviation industry.

According to Managing Director Paul Potgieter, the opportunity to work together with Boeing could result in Aerosud developing one of the country's most technologically advanced manufacturing operations, while also helping the Republic's overall aviation industry and economy.

"This opportunity aligns with government initiatives and aims to provide employment opportunities in the high-tech aviation industry to previously disadvantaged individuals."

The Boeing Company is the largest aerospace company in the world, the world's largest manufacturer of commercial jetliners and military aircraft, and the nation's largest NASA contractor and the largest U.S. exporter. Total company revenues for 2000 were $51 billion.

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