

Soaring Partnership

By DEEPANJALI KAKATI

With 25 companies and more than 200 industry representatives exhibiting their technology and products, the United States participated in India's first international civil aviation exhibition and conference as an official partner in October.

"As the United States and India deepen their partnership to modernize India's aviation and airports sector, jobs are being created in India as well as in the U.S., spurred by technology trade and high-end manufacturing. This is a true win-win for both sides given the current global economic slowdown," says Ron Somers, president of the U.S.-India Business Council.

India's domestic air traffic is expected to grow to 180 million and international traffic to 50 million passengers by 2020. U.S. exports to India in the aviation sector have increased from \$2 billion in 2006 to nearly \$6 billion in 2007.

"With India's economy expanding at an average rate of 8 percent per year over the last few years, the country is facing growing pressure to expand its air passenger and cargo capacity as well as improve its civil aviation infrastructure,"

U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Steven J. White said at a conference organized as part of the October 15 to 18 event in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.

"U.S. industry stands ready and able to provide the solutions needed to ensure the safety, security and convenience of the traveling public as well as to provide modern, efficient and secure airports throughout India."

The U.S. corporate delegation included The Boeing Company, Northrup Grumman, Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, United Technologies, Bell Helicopter and Satyam. Also present were officials from the Federal Aviation Administration, Departments of State and Commerce, U.S. Trade and Development Agency and the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

On display at the U.S. pavilion were American aircraft, aviation products, safety and security equipment, communications and navigational systems.

<http://www.india-aviation.in/main.htm>



Above: Carmine D'Aloisio, minister counselor for commerce at the U.S. Embassy (from left), Hyderabad Consul General Cornelis Keur, U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Steven J. White and Robert Sturgell, acting administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, open the U.S. pavilion.

Below: Displays at the pavilion.

