
RADOM POLAND - SOLID SHOW 2013

RADOM HIGHLIGHTS

INDUSTRIAL INTEREST

For those who don't know, Radom is situated about two hours south of Warsaw and is home to the Polish Air Force's PZL-130 Orliks. On the southeastern edge of town is the Radom-Sadkow airport, home of the Polish Airforce training base. Originally founded in 1920 as a civilian pilot training field, and today hosting the 42nd Aviation Base School mainly instructing on PZL-130 turboprop airplanes. Radom is probably best known for its bi-annual airshow. Poland organises this Radom International air show with a two years time path, the initiation took place in the year 2000. This air show evolved to a major event with participation out of the whole of Europe and the best display teams. Also the community of international aircraft manufacturers showed interest and find their way to Radom. Poland acquired in the last years F-16 fighters and took over Mig-29's from Germany. The obsolete Antonov An-26 was replaced by new Casa C-295 aircraft and recently the fleet of transport aircraft was enlarged by second handed C-130E's. This process however has not been completely run. In Poland there is still a lot to gain. New fighters will be a necessity in future and the helicopter force needs partial replacements.

Sikorsky hopes to win the competition for new military helicopters in Poland with its Blackhawk helicopters produced with the PZL-Mielec factory. Requirements have been given to the competitors including Eurocopter and Agusta Westland. The choice is expected to be made within half a year. Poland offers their aircraft industry to participate in manufacturing.

HIGH ENTERTAINMENT

Out of the unique opportunities at Radom Air Show one could see a Su-27 and MiG-21 displays. The ex-Soviet aircraft are still a rare sight at any show outside the Russian borders. Out of the aerobatic teams, two made noteworthy appearances. The Patrouille Suisse have shown an impressive skill in their formation flying. Moreover, the F-5 being so fast a jet made the display very spectacular. And Wings of Storm from Croatian Air Force, flying on PC.9 airplane. The team has shown some unique maneuvers that are not performed by any aerobatic team worldwide, including a formation tailslide. Other teams that took part in the display were the Baltic Bees, flying L-159 ALCAs and Finland's Midnight Hawks. Contrary to the British RIAT rules, the safety regulations allow the pilots in Radom to use the flares during the displays. The flares were used by many machines, but one of the most spectacular application could be seen in RNLAH AH-64 Apache display with an unusual series of maneuvers, including a high barrel roll and tailslide.

With the Polish attractions as the Orliki's and Team Iskry with Iskra's Poland knows how to entertain the public. This year they were also embedded in mass fly pasts of most of the types in Polish inventory. Separate displays were given by the two Fitters, two Hinds, W-3 Sokol and a Seasprite helicopter and a combination Mi-2 / Mi-8 of the Police. Several of the other attractions are well known by their appearance at other European air shows but surprises to the show were a Romanian Lancer and a Ukraine Su-27 and Su-27UB Flanker who performed well. A Dutch F-16 dropped flares at the runway which had to be swept clean before he could land. Mistake? No, just a treat to the public, because later on it appeared that it was done once again in another show. The spectators in the press area clapped their hands! The show went on until the last shades of the sun peeped over the base. For spectators not coming from Europe this complete display gave them a very good opportunity

to see all kinds of airplanes and helicopters out of the Warsaw Pact inventory, as usually not seen everywhere in the world. Afterwards it was stated by the organization that probably the show and displays were the largest of its kind in Poland. The public were very enthousiast about the schedule of the event, and as some sort of blue-print other countries were interested in also using this format for future shows elsewhere.

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