

## Airbus A380 plane holds up traffic at S'pore Airshow

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A DOUBLE-DECKER Airbus A380 airliner was among the warplanes, business jets and helicopters towed by road this weekend to the site of the upcoming Singapore Airshow at Changi North.

As drivers and passers-by gawked at the world's largest passenger jet, police and Airbus ground crew guided the A380 along a newly built road - at about the speed of a brisk walk.

The aerial giant, which will put on a flying display that includes low-level passes and tight turns, is likely to be a crowd pleaser at the airshow, which opens on Tuesday and runs through Sunday.

The event is expected to attract tens of thousands of visitors, from industry players to aircraft and military enthusiasts

About 60 planes and choppers will have made the road trip to the airshow site by tomorrow, according to organisers.

Aircraft on display include the B-1B Lancer, the fastest bomber in the United States Air Force, business jets and three jets being considered by the Republic of Singapore Air Force for advanced pilot training. They are the BAE Systems Hawk from Britain, the Italian Aermacchi M-346 and South Korea's T-50 Golden Eagle.

Over the weekend, hundreds of workers put the finishing touches on the exhibition stands of some 900 exhibitors who will showcase their products at the event.

Some companies, like United States aviation giant Boeing, flew in their own tradesmen to help a local contractor set up their exhibition stand, which includes models of Boeing planes, as well as an F-15 Eagle fighter jet simulator.

A Boeing spokesman said the workers, who are skilled in areas such as design and electrical works, are part of a 75-person delegation that was flown in for the airshow.

Several European companies also flew in their tradesmen, and The Straits Times understands these foreign contractors will stay till the end of the show next Sunday, when they will tear down the booths.

Meanwhile, the exhibitors are raring to go, including Brazilian aircraft maker Embraer. The company has flown in its Legacy 600 business jet, which can seat up to 16 people, so potential customers can have a first-hand look at the luxury craft.

**Read the full report in Monday's edition of The Straits Times.**