

## Article & Photos by Shaun Psaila

Held annually, the <u>Malta International Airshow</u> (<u>maltairshow.com</u>) might not be the biggest of aviation events but it has acquired quite the reputation in recent years as one of Europe's most interesting amongst aviation enthusiasts worldwide. Reason being that Malta's geographical location and the hard work the Malta Aviation Society puts into the airshow, has always attracted an array of exotic aircraft from different countries and once again the results weren't disappointing!

The 23rd edition of the Malta International Airshow organized by the Malta Aviation Society was held across the weekend of 26th - 27th September 2015. The show attracted around 45 aircraft from 13 different nations and over 15,000 spectators flocked to visit what is considered to be one of the largest outdoor events held in Malta.

This year, participants started to arrive on Thursday 24th with the first arrivals being two RAF C-17 support aircraft bringing the Royal Navy Black Cats Wildcat Helicopters, a first for Malta. For the second year running, the Egyptian Air Force participated by sending a C-130H-30 Hercules and NAMC/PAC K-8 Karakorum which are always a pleasure to see due to the fact that they are so rare to see out of their country. The static line up also featured a number of transport and maritime surveillance aircraft which consisted of a NATO E-3A AWACS, Romanian Air Force C-27J Spartan, Polish Navy AN-28TD Bryza, Polish Air Force C-295, Belgian C-130H, USAF C-130J-30 Super Hercules, US Navy P-3C Orion and also a Royal Canadian Air Force CP-140 Aurora after an absence of 17 years. The Swiss PC-7 Team and Belgian F-16 Solo returned to grace the Maltese Skies, so did the Polish Orlik Aerobatic Team and Italian AW-149 for the first time in Malta. The home team also performed an eye catching display performing formation flypasts, cross overs and breaking formations with their very own Armed Forces of Malta King Air B200 and AW-139.

