

MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 2701

**REPLY RECOMMENDED BY:
MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS: MP**

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 2701

Mr S.J.F. Marais (DA) to ask the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans:

- (1) Given the reported allocation of a long-term contract to Marshalls Aerospace in the United Kingdom, what (a) the reasons that the contract was not allocated to Denel Aeronautics, as clearly expected by them, (b) upgrade and service work will be done under the specified contract by Marshalls Aerospace and their subcontractors and (c) will be done by Denel Aeronautics.
- (2) What (a) will be the monetary value of the work and provided for by (i) Marshall Aerospace and (ii) Denel Aeronautics if any and (b) number of C130 aircraft will be (i) upgraded and serviced by Marshall Aerospace, (ii) at what costs and (iii) over what timeline.
- (3) whether there are any discussions between the Department of Defence and the Department of Public Enterprises, on whether Denel Aeronautics will play any role now and in the future with regard to the upgrade, service and maintenance of strategic prime mission airframes; if not, what is the position in this regard, if so what are the (a) extent, (b) costs and (c) timelines involved?

REPLY:

- (1)(a) The South African Air Force followed the ARMSCOR Contracting processes and a Request for Information (RFI) was published to the industry. Subsequently, only four (4) organisations responded including Denel. According to the ARMSCOR process, Marshall Aerospace was selected for the Major Servicing of two (2) aircraft as well as addressing the mandatory ADS-B upgrade and immediate & urgent obsolescence issues. It should also be noted that Marshall Aerospace currently hold the Intellectual Property (IP) for the C-130BZ avionic suit, and that Denel does not currently have the capacity to conduct additional Major Servicing (One [1] aircraft currently in the servicing bay undergoing a servicing) and/or the update of the avionics.
- (b) The update and first two (2) servicing will be conducted by Marshall Aerospace in Cambridge. Further updates and servicing will be conducted in country at the SA Air Force Maintenance and Repair Organisation (MRO) by Marshall Aerospace together with Denel and SA Air Force members.

2. The contract with Marshall Aerospace is to the value of Rm470 which includes the mandatory update kits and equipment for four (4) aircraft and update and Major Servicing of two (2) aircraft. Included in the contract is to have members from the SA Air Force and Denel to be trained to continue with the maintenance of the new equipment to be fitted. The contract commenced in August 2023 and ends July 2026.

3. As to discussions between the Department of Defence (DOD) and Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) – The SA Air Force cannot comment on this issue as this would be conducted on a Departmental level. It can, however, be stated that the SA Air Force has a current Product System Support contract with Denel that started in January 2023 and will end in December 2026.



MS T.R. MODISE

MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS: MP