

Mikail Houari

President, Airbus Africa & Middle East



Mikail Houari is the President of Airbus for Africa & Middle East.

Based in the UAE, Mr. Houari was appointed to this role in January 2017 and brings 30 years of global and regional industry experience to his position.

He joined Airbus in 2005 as Vice President for Latin America, overseeing the defence and space divisions from where he moved to the UAE in the same capacity covering the Middle East region.

In 2011, Mr. Houari was appointed as General Delegate for Airbus, before taking the position as Deputy President for Airbus in Africa and Middle East.

Mr. Houari's career began in Madrid in 1988 at Alcatel as a Program Manager on the switching exchange systems for Indonesia. Soon after, he was appointed the General Delegate of Alcatel SESA in 1990 for China. Two years later he was promoted to Director of Sales for Latin America, followed by being appointed as the Vice President for Latin America based in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1994.

A year later, he joined the French Interior Ministry company SOFREMI, and was appointed General Delegate in Colombia, and was in charge of Latin America. He later moved to Washington DC with the same responsibilities, becoming more oriented to the partnership with US companies for the region. He then returned to Paris, where he was appointed as the Sales Director for the company.

Thereafter, Mr. Houari joined Thales as Vice President of Sales and Marketing in Saudi Arabia. In 2003, he was appointed the Sales Director of the Information System Business Unit within Thales in France, and was in charge of the sales of the SCADA systems worldwide (metro, electricity operators, and pipelines).

In 2005, he joined EADS (European Aeronautics Defence and Space Company) in Sao Paulo as Vice President for the Latin America region for all of the group's defence activities. Three years later, he was appointed to oversee the Middle East region, based out of the UAE.

Mr. Houari is an active member of the Conseillers du Commerce Extérieur de la France (CCEF), the official French trade advisors, in the UAE and has been elected President of the association for the last three years. He is also the President of the Groupement des Industries Françaises Aéronautiques et Spatiales (GIFAS) in the UAE, the French Aerospace Industries Association.

A business graduate from the Ecole Supérieure des Sciences Commerciales Appliquées in Paris, Mr. Houari is fluent in French, German, English, Arabic, Portuguese and Spanish.

Mikail is also a private pilot; he obtained his private pilot license at the age of 17. He currently lives in Dubai with his wife and children.