

TODAY'S ZAMAN

Koç Consulting to propel defense firms into world market

Koç Consulting, Turkey's first consulting firm in defense, aviation and space technologies, is now up and running. The founder of the company, Aydoğın Koç said their primary goal was to help Turkish defense firms raise their standards for a better international acceptance and recognition.

His long professional involvement in the space and aviation sector is also a passion for Koç, whose book entitled "Why Doesn't the Sky Fall?" was a bestseller in 2004.

Koç Consulting first went into operation in Munich, Germany in 2004. The year 2006 marked the start of its presence in Turkey, and it still carries out its activities today in the office located in Cyberpark of Bilkent University. The company has so far worked with prominent firms including EADS, BAE Systems, Eurospace, Airbus, BERATA, Eurocopter, BMW, MEA, MKB, Züblin and MTU Aero Engines.

The company's CEO Koç believes Turkey has the potential for the establishment of a consulting firm solely operating in the fields of space and aviation. Stating his conviction that Turkey was able to make notable progress in the defense industry, Koç recalled that their primary objective was to develop a "win-win" strategy in collaboration with the companies and institutions they were working while focusing on value-added activities.

Koç upholds that in order to be able to compete with the giants of the sector in international tenders, Turkish companies have to achieve a certain standard. Koç underlines that they want to provide support for Turkish companies ambitious to meet this standard and engage in substantial exportation activities.

Asked about the recent success stories of Turkish aviation and space firms, Koç noted: "So many items have been produced with the aid of the domestic defense industry in Turkey. Enormous progress has been made in terms of Research and Development. However, surely much more needs to be done. To this end, technology transfer is a must."

After studying Aviation and Space Engineering at Stuttgart and Darmstadt Universities, Aydoğın Koç began his career as an engineer responsible for the development of military aircrafts in EADS Holding Advanced Design

Office. During his stay at EADS, he held the position of production manager in the manufacture of Eurofighters.

Throughout his career, Koç has been involved numerous projects in the fields of space and aircraft engineering. In early 1990s, he also worked as technical director in the space shuttle Hermes project developed by the member states in European Space Agency. His book "Why Doesn't the Sky Fall?" published by Koç Consulting in 2004 became a bestseller in Germany. In this intriguing book, Koç addresses a wide range of interesting subjects on space, sky, aircrafts and birds.

Inspired by Apollo 11 landing on the moon in 1969, Koç developed a strong interest in aviation and space at age 12. Even though he has never personally experienced space travel, he cites his work with astronauts at EADS as a highlight of his career. Describing his works in the field of space and aviation as his life's passion rather than a profession, Koç believes they have a very important job to do in the field in Turkey.

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