



# Sanicole 2022

The International Sanicole Airshow is a household name in Belgium as one of the most awarded airshows in Europe. An airshow with a rich history since 1977. An annual spectacle for young and old that brings aviation in all its different dimensions to the fore. International Sanicole Airshow honours this rich aviation heritage and combines the power and magic of flying to inspire young people.

Every year, Sanicole organises one of the most anticipated activities in Limburg. The Sanicole Airshow attracts 40,000 visitors each year. It can even be said that Sanicole Airshow is the biggest and most awarded airshow of the Benelux. In previous years, the Sanicole airshow was held on Friday evening and Sunday afternoon. The 2022 edition changed that, as the sunset airshow was on Saturday 10 September and the daytime airshow was on Sunday 11 September 2022.

Highlights of the Sanicole airshow included a USAF F-35 demo, Saudi Hawks (demo was canceled after one flypast due to a thundercloud), Turkish Stars, Belgian F-16 show by VRIESKE and a show by a Belgian A109. The next Sanicole show will be in 2024 starting from 7–8 September 2024.

## Sanicole background

The Sanicole airshow at the airport of Leopoldsburg (Belgium) has grown over

the years from a small event to a true spectacle. The name Sanicole that is linked to the air show has a special background and has nothing to do with the place names or the location of the event. The name Sanicole was invented by the Belgian Lucien Plees. This man is the founder of the flying club at Leopoldsburg airport in the municipality of Hechtel-Eksel in northern Belgium. Plees was the owner of a sanitary facility in Korpsel at the time of its foundation. The name Sanicole is a

combination of the word sanitary and the name of his daughter Nicole. When the Sanicole Airshow was held for the first time, the event did not represent much. The size of the show contrasted sharply with what the event is today. The air show started to grow in size when Gilbert Buekenberghs started to interfere with the organisation. The Sanicole Airshow grew in the 1980s into a large air show that earned its place in the list of leading air shows. This was quite a special achievement at the time,

