

A DREAM START FOR SCOOT'S FIRST B787 DREAMLINER



Personnel from CAAS, Scoot, Boeing and Rolls-Royce worked together to ensure the safe delivery of Scoot's first B787.

Scoot's inaugural B787 Dreamliner commercial flight took to the skies on 5 February 2015, giving passengers more options for value-for-money flights to medium and long-haul destinations. But placing an order for an aircraft isn't the end of the process – a lot of work goes on behind the scenes before an aircraft is brought into service.

When Scoot took delivery of its new aircraft, the first of 20 B787 aircraft it has on order, it had to undergo a rigorous Entry Into Service (EIS) process before being able to commence commercial operations. This is a process which involves collaborative effort from various entities namely Scoot, the airline; Boeing, the aircraft manufacturer; Rolls-Royce, the engine manufacturer; Changi Airport Group (CAG), the airport operator and the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS).

As Singapore's aviation safety regulator, CAAS plays a key role in this entire process to ensure that new aircraft coming into service fulfil both airworthiness and operational requirements. To this end, CAAS formed a cross-functional project team, comprising personnel with flight operations, engineering, continuing airworthiness and licensing expertise, to work with Scoot to ensure that the B787 fulfils CAAS regulatory standards and that the Scoot team is able to operate the aircraft safely.

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Integral to this process, CAAS conducted an airworthiness assessment of the aircraft. Specific risk areas such as the certification of the composite fuselage and Boeing's engineering solution in addressing Lithium Battery fires on board the B787 were evaluated. In addition, CAAS also conducted an evaluation of the airline's flight operations competencies to handle the aircraft safely. Here, CAAS looked into Scoot's method of control and supervision of flight operations, training and competency of its relevant staff as well as its capabilities in maintenance and ground handling.

The EIS process also involves a 'Customer Walk', where Boeing and Scoot personnel inspect every aspect of the B787 to ensure that the aircraft has been manufactured according to Scoot's specifications and configurations. Before the aircraft finally takes to the skies commercially, Boeing and Scoot pilots conduct a trial "customer flight" to test out various aspects of the aircraft performance, including shutting down one engine at a time.

As more aircraft types are brought into service, this process remains critical in ensuring that safety and operational requirements are met and that each aircraft is safe to fly.