

## **AEROSPACE EXCHANGE ENHANCED TO BETTER PROMOTE AEROSPACE VALUE CHAIN**



Lee Yi Shyan, Senior Minister of State Ministry of Trade and Industry and Ministry of National Development, touring the ASX 2013 exhibition grounds featuring aerospace suppliers across the value chain. *Photo courtesy of Association of Aerospace Industries (Singapore).*

Late-February 2013 saw the staging of Singapore's biennial AeroSpace eXchange (ASX) – formerly known as the AeroSpace Supplier eXchange, held at the Singapore Expo convention and exhibition centre.

Hosted by the Association of Aerospace Industries (Singapore) (AAIS), the event which was first held in 2009, incorporated a high-level conference and exhibition that showcased aerospace suppliers from all stages of the value chain.

ASX's conference ran for three days and featured speakers from all corners of the globe. A notable feature of the conference was the AeroSuppliers track, where suppliers gained in-depth insight into how to best do business with the aerospace sector. In addition to this, the event staged numerous tracks aimed at addressing different industry segments as well as

today's foremost challenges. These included tracks on aviation security, civil and aerodefense MRO, and human capital.

Commenting on the rationale behind the event, Mr Charles Chong, President of AAIS, said, "The ASX was initiated as a result of our aim to assist our smaller companies to expand their businesses in aerospace, and we certainly look forward to having the industry's support to grow Singapore's aerospace hub status further."

This year's exhibition featured a showground twice the size of that of previous years, with 50% more exhibitors than in 2009. Spanning 7,000 square feet, the exhibition showcased 61 companies. These included aerospace certification bodies, design and manufacturing houses, equipment manufacturers, metrology companies, non-destructive testing houses, precision machining companies, stockists, and distributors.

ASX 2013 also featured its first Education and Training Pavilion and AeroCareer Centre, with the aim of promoting careers in aerospace among the young.

The event also witnessed the signing of three MoUs between local and internationally acclaimed players, aimed at forging partnerships that enable capabilities upgrading.

AAIS celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. It has been a leading industry association for the aerospace industry, representing companies from the maintenance, repair and overhaul sector, aerospace manufacturing, research and development, as well as training sectors. Recognising the success of this year's event, Mr Lee Yi Shyan, Senior Minister of State at Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry and Ministry of National Development, said, "Let me commend AAIS for playing a leading role in facilitating collaborations and dialogues between its members, government agencies and various stakeholders. I would like to further challenge AAIS to help draw up a blueprint for its members to transform itself in the next 10 years, making full use of all the productivity programs and funding available for the industry."