

CLEAR SKIES AHEAD AS SINGAPORE BOOSTS ATM CAPABILITY



Minister for Transport, Mr Lui Tuck Yew, and Director-General CAAS, Mr Yap Ong Heng, officially inaugurated the new SATCC.

Facing the demands of increasing air traffic capacity and operational efficiency, the need for advances in air traffic management and avionics technology is more crucial than ever. On 10 February 2014, in a simple but symbolic ceremony, the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) unveiled its new Singapore Air Traffic Control Centre (SATCC) at the Singapore Airshow Aviation Leadership Summit 2014. SAATC presents a generational shift in operational capabilities and robustness, well-equipped to manage the projected significantly higher and more complex traffic.

The new facility incorporates the state-of-the-art LORADS III air traffic management system. Enabling a significant boost in traffic handling capacity, the new system includes technologies and innovative features that exploit advances in aircraft navigational accuracy and functionality. Conventional paper strips has been replaced by electronic versions, creating a paperless, highly automated and integrated environment.

With the fusion of data from multiple surveillance sources, the system provides a comprehensive air situation picture by allowing air traffic controllers to access different views at a touch and track aircraft positions more quickly and accurately. It also provides unprecedented layers of safety nets that alerts air traffic controllers of potential traffic conflicts and hazards, and redundancies such as back-ups to ensure that the provision of air traffic services for Changi Airport and the Singapore Flight Information Region (FIR) are uninterrupted. In addition, air traffic controllers will be able to work smarter and faster in the high-tempo environment, which includes new displays and a human-machine-interface subsystem consisting of smart menus and highly configurable displays for easy retrieval, presentation and dispatch of information.

While the new Centre is a testament to CAAS' advancements in air traffic technology, it is the air traffic controllers, the air traffic control support officers and engineering staff who embody the capability and pulse of SAATC. They have embraced the step change and raised their faculty to operate the new generation system.

Mr Yap Ong Heng, Director-General of CAAS said "The new SATCC demonstrates CAAS' determination to continually enhance our air traffic management capability for the Singapore Flight Information Region and Changi air hub. With the Asia-Pacific aviation market – already the world's largest* – expected to continue to grow strongly, the new Centre ensures that CAAS is ready for the future."

**According to the International Air Transport Association (IATA), in 2012, Asia-Pacific was the world's leading aviation region, with 28.2% share of global passenger traffic.*