

DESIGN ENGINEERING AS A DRIVER OF GROWTH



CAAS unveiled plans to further develop Singapore's design engineering sector at the SAR-21 and Design Engineering Seminar, organised as part of the CAAS Safety Series seminars.

Strong air travel projections in Asia-Pacific have led to corresponding projected growth in the design engineering sector, as airlines plan for expansion or the rejuvenation of their aircraft fleet. To differentiate their product and passenger experience, airlines are increasingly looking to retrofit and reconfigure their cabins to introduce more advanced and sophisticated in-flight entertainment systems and furnishings. Given the significant growth potential in this high-value sector as well as Singapore's existing strengths as a respected Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) hub and Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) base, design engineering has been identified as a key area of opportunity and further development. To help industry players better understand the processes in attaining different certifications, capitalise on opportunities in this targeted area of growth and move up the aviation value chain, CAAS organised the SAR-21 and Design Engineering Seminar.

Participants were briefed on CAAS' design engineering roadmap which highlighted the development strategies to expand market opportunities, grow industry capabilities and develop an enabling business environment. Participants were also taken through the application and approval processes in applying for the Design Organisation Approvals (DOAs) and Supplemental Type Certificates (STCs). Tips on good application practices were also

dispensed to help organisations better understand the regulatory requirements for more effective application outcomes.

The seminar also served as a platform to solicit industry feedback and support for the introduction of the Design Engineering Working Group. The working group seeks to engage industry players as well as institutes of higher learning to discuss and share knowledge and challenges faced, as well as explore and propose solutions to identified issues, with the aim to further develop Singapore's design engineering sector. The first meeting is expected to commence in October 2013.

Close to 100 participants from airlines, design and production organisations, MROs as well as training organisations attended the event, organised as part of the CAAS Safety Series, at the Singapore Aviation Academy on 3 September 2013.