

REPUBLIC POLYTECHNIC'S NEW AEROSPACE TRAINING FACILITY



A bird's eye view of The ARCH, Republic Polytechnic's new 1,500 square metres aerospace training facility set up for students to get hands-on training in aircraft repair and maintenance techniques.

Republic Polytechnic (RP) opened its new aircraft hangar, a purpose-built training facility called The ARCH (The Aerospace Hub), to provide aerospace students with hands-on experience and to foster stronger collaboration with leading industry players Diethelm Keller Aviation (DKA), Hawker Pacific and SATS.

The new facility aims to help meet the growing demand for skilled manpower in the aerospace industry and will play a critical role for students to better contribute to the growth of the local and international aerospace industry.

"This aerospace hub models a real aircraft hangar facility. It enhances RP's aerospace and aviation programme capabilities with several adjacent workshops set up for students to get hands-on training in aircraft repair and maintenance techniques," explained Yeo Li Pheow, Principal/CEO, Republic Polytechnic.

The ARCH, which will house RP's Learjet aircraft, has a built up space of 1,500 square metres with all the facilities typically found in an actual industry aircraft hangar, including aircraft sheet metal repair, composite repair and non-destructive testing.

The tertiary institution also signed MOUs with three leading players in the aerospace and aviation industry, DKA, Hawker Pacific Asia and SATS, to commemorate the opening of its new hangar.

Mr Lee Hsien Yang, Chairman, Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS), who officiated the opening of the ARCH, lauded RP's commitment in grooming industry-relevant students to meet the industry's demand for skilled technical personnel such as Aircraft Maintenance Engineers (AMEs). He also added that CAAS, in its efforts to enhance the attractiveness of aerospace careers and support the industry's manpower needs, has reviewed its rules on the training of AMEs after seeking relevant inputs from the industry. Under this revised framework, the four-year apprenticeship period for AMEs could be shortened by up to one year. This reduces the lead time for AME trainees to join the aerospace sector and enhances the industry's cost-competitiveness through the reduction of training costs.