

## **SINGAPORE STRENGTHENS AVIATION SAFETY COOPERATION WITH AUSTRALIA**



The technical arrangement on airworthiness certification between CAAS and Australia's CASA was signed at the Singapore Airshow 2014 in February.

Singapore and Australia have concluded a new technical arrangement on airworthiness certification. This technical arrangement is the second aviation safety-related technical arrangement concluded between the two nations under the ambit of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on cooperation in aviation safety that was signed in 2013. This MOU allows for cooperation between both countries in areas including technical arrangements, sharing of knowledge and safety information, training and joint research.

This technical arrangement on airworthiness certification, signed by Mr Yap Ong Heng, Director-General of the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) and Mr John McCormick, the Director of Aviation Safety of Australia's Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA), comes after the first technical arrangement on aviation maintenance, inked in April 2013.

These arrangements will improve cost efficiencies and present new business opportunities for aviation companies in Singapore and Australia, as well as allow for a mutually accepted set of safety oversight requirements and reciprocal acceptance of regulatory approvals. The success of these arrangements also paved the way for further collaboration between the two organisations, potentially in the areas of aviation personnel licensing and qualification of flight simulators in the near future.

These technical arrangements were widely received by the aviation industry. Mr Barathan Pasupathi, Chief Executive Officer of Jetstar Asia, said, "With Jetstar's major Asian hub in Singapore and a growing fleet of 117 aircraft Group-wide, enhanced cooperation on aviation support services will deliver many mutual benefits, including greater operational and cost efficiencies, which help underpin growth."

Aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) companies, as well as design and production organisations, also expressed their support. Mr Hamish Guthrie, Manager of Customer Business, Singapore Aero Engine Services Private Limited (SAESL), a joint venture between Rolls-Royce, SIA Engineering Company and Hong Kong Aero Engine Services Limited, said, "SAESL appreciates and supports cooperation between CAAS and CASA, which will facilitate the issuance of return to service certificates for Australian registered Rolls-Royce Trent engines undergoing maintenance at the SAESL facility in Singapore. This collaboration will bring about operating efficiency benefits plus cost savings."

Mr Chris Setfoulis of Australian company, Airline Technical Services also welcomed the move. "The latest technical arrangement between CAAS and CASA will further improve the ability to broaden market offerings in the areas of aircraft continuing worthiness and training. It will enhance our ability to provide around-the-clock services to aircraft and engine leasing companies through our offices in Singapore, Europe and major capital cities in Australia."

Mr David Simons, Chief Executive Officer of Auto Avia Design in Australia, was also encouraged by the agreement. "The Technical Arrangement provides significant business and technical opportunities, particularly in the areas of design, certification and airworthiness. In addition, it allows both Singapore and Australian maintenance organisations to share their experience to provide better maintenance practices and enjoy a common standard of engineering processes."