

(EMBARGOED UNTIL 27 MAY 2009)



**27-29 May 2009
Foyer 1, Level 2, Singapore Expo**

Asia-Pacific's First Aerospace Suppliers Event Opens Today

- *ASX09 Opening Ceremony officiated by Mr Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade & Industry*
- *12 overseas buyers from the USA, UK, France and India come to Singapore for meetings with pre-qualified Singapore suppliers under IE Singapore's programme, to fulfill their procurement requirements at ASX 2009*
- *Over 30 local aerospace suppliers showcase their capabilities to the industry even in the midst of the economic crisis*
- *Almost 200 delegates from 10 participating countries will learn key information on the Aerospace Industry through a timely and essential 2-day conference*

SINGAPORE (27 May 2009) - Today marks a significant milestone for the Singapore Aerospace Supply Industry as it launches the First Aerospace Suppliers Event in the Asia-Pacific region, the **Aerospace Supplier eXchange (ASX) 2009**, which will be held at the Singapore Expo on 27-29 May 2009.

With about 50 participating companies showcasing their most innovative products and services, ASX 2009, a regional conference and exhibition that focuses on the support capabilities of Tier 3 and 4 suppliers that serve the aerospace manufacturing OEMs and maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) companies, will be a grand showcase of innovative products and services for the growing aerospace industry.

"We are pleased and honoured to co-organise the inaugural ASX 2009 with the Association of Aerospace Industries (Singapore). We are expecting some 2,000 industry players to witness this significant event of the aerospace supply industry over the next 3 days", said Mr Adrian Lau, General Manager of IIR Exhibitions.

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Aerospace Supplier eXchange Opening Ceremony Highlights

Graced by the Minister for Trade and Industry, Mr Lim Hng Kiang, the opening ceremony will witness the signing of a number of MOUs cementing new business arrangements in the industry. They include the signing of an agreement for a local aerospace training organisation to export their training programmes to Jamaica, as well as a consortium formation to facilitate the export of four local aerospace companies.

“ASX 2009, which is expected to draw some 2,000 trade visitors, goes beyond creating branding and visibility opportunities for companies to profile themselves to the industry. It goes a step further to provide a strategic platform for the local supply industry to meet with and expose their capabilities to the overseas buyers, evidenced by the GATE 09 Aerospace programme”, said Mr Charles Chong, President of the Association of Aerospace Industries (Singapore).

“The aerospace industry is one of the highest value-add industries and has been experiencing significant growth over the past decade, with over 10% growth in 2007 alone”, added Mr Chong.

One of the many highlights of the opening ceremony is the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding among 4 aerospace supply companies, who will work closely together to export their capabilities to overseas markets using the value proposition of offering an all-rounded solution, from machining, to surface treatment, material supply and logistics.

ASX 09 Business Highlights

Apart from numerous opportunities through networking and meetings between over 2,000 expected visitors and exhibitors at the show, the ASX 2009 has an added boost in the form of the GATE 09 Aerospace programme. GATE 09 Aerospace, a business matching programme managed by International Enterprise (IE) Singapore and the AAIS, which pre-matches aerospace buyers with the most suitable suppliers to facilitate efficient sourcing of end-to-end solutions for the industry.

At GATE 09 Aerospace, **12** overseas buyers from the **USA, UK, France and India** in the areas of aircraft engine manufacture, avionics and a strong Tier 2 components manufacturer, will be pre-matched with

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local companies and SMEs who can meet their procurement requirements which include machining, casting, coating, plating, heat treatment, embedded computing products.

“The capabilities of Singapore’s aerospace supply base have been honed through supporting the MRO cluster in Singapore. It also has the capability to support aerospace manufacturing activities, a high value-add industry that Singapore has much potential in. To promote the overseas growth of Singapore-based enterprises, IE Singapore is pleased to work with AAIS, to provide a platform for local suppliers to meet key aerospace procurement decision makers in one to one business meetings through the Global Asia Trade Exchange (GATE) 09 Aerospace,” said Mr Thian Tai Chew, Director, Technology Business Division, IE Singapore.

Outlook for Aerospace Manufacturing Industry

Despite the current economic situation, the Aerospace Manufacturing continues to see positive indicators of growth and development through the emergence of new aerospace manufacturing plants in 2009. Further, with increasing cost pressures, the Frost and Sullivan Aerospace and Defense practice predicts the increased outsourcing of work packages to Asia Pacific OEMs, which will then cause a positive ripple effect amongst the suppliers in the Asia Pacific.

In terms of commercial aerospace manufacturing, analysts predict the Compounded Annual Growth Rate of CAGR from 2008 – 2030 will be at 4.01% globally, whereas Asia-Pacific’s CAGR is significantly higher at 7.7% It is clear that the Asia-Pacific will be a hotbed of aerospace opportunities and activities, and Singapore is well-positioned and primed to capitalize on this.

ASX 2009 Programme Highlights

Held concurrently with the exhibition is a comprehensive conference that provides valuable knowledge on key hot topics such as safety and risk management, business strategy procurement, aerospace supply chain, certification and regulations, and many others.

(EMBARGOED UNTIL 27 MAY 2009)

With about 20 esteemed speakers from around the world, companies like Aerostrategy Limited, CAA International of the UK, the USA Federal Aviation Administration and Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore will share valuable insights and experiences on the aerospace sector in general encompassing requirements and topics for both the MRO and Manufacturing communities.

“ASX 09 Conference received an overwhelming response from the aerospace industry as it welcomes some 200 delegates from 10 participating countries such as Australia, Canada, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, UAE, UK, USA and Vietnam”, said Mr Lau.

In addition to the main conference and exhibition, visitors can also attend free industry seminars on national workplace safety & health, advance performance based logistics, trade compliance, aerospace certification and more, which allow knowledge upgrading on relevant information of the industry.

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Notes for the Editor:

Aerospace Supplier eXchange 2009 is supported by IE Singapore and SPRING Singapore. The inaugural ASX 2009 will have a full 2-day conference complemented by a 3-day exhibition, where the industry will come together to network and attend seminars by expert speakers, as well as understand the procurement and quality needs of major OEMs. Intended to be a biennial event, the ASX aims to be the premier event for all Tier 3 and 4 companies to exhibit their products and services, and one whereby buyers from the Tier 1 and 2 suppliers and OEM will view as vital to their sourcing needs.

IE Singapore will also be jointly organising GATE 2009 Aerospace with the AAIS, a premier procurement event held in conjunction to ASX 2009. GATE, or Global-Asia Trade Exchange, is an initiative that enables Singapore companies to meet with key procurement decision-makers from global OEMs. Buyers are matched with the most suitable suppliers, based on their detailed requirements. Essentially a global buyer-centric platform, it will facilitate the sourcing of end-to-end solutions for the aerospace industry.

About the Association of Aerospace Industries (Singapore) - AAIS

The Association of Aerospace Industries (Singapore) or "AAIS", a non-profit organisation, is a leading industry association for the Aerospace Industry in Singapore that represents companies from the Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) sector, Aerospace Manufacturing sector, Research and Development / Training sectors and suppliers for civil air transport and aerospace defence. The AAIS endeavours to provide leadership by facilitating strategies in innovation competitiveness, technical standards and accreditation. It also serves as a forum for members to discuss and elevate relevant issues to policy-makers and stakeholders.

(EMBARGOED UNTIL 27 MAY 2009)

Within the AAIS, the AAIS AeroResource Centre focuses on building industry and manpower development capabilities, with the aim of enhancing the competitiveness of the aerospace industries and the capabilities of aerospace suppliers. It is the one-stop avenue for the aerospace industry's growth needs and a launch pad for suppliers to establish themselves in the industry and overseas growth markets. Please visit www.aais.org.sg for more information and news about AAIS.

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