

Eurocopter South East Asia launches a groundbreaking ceremony for its new facilities at Seletar Aerospace Park in 2010

Singapore, 30th October 2009

After having announced its move at the Paris Air Show in June this year, Eurocopter South East Asia's (ESEA) groundbreaking ceremony for its new facilities was officiated today by representatives from Jurong Town Council (JTC), ST Aerospace, European Aerospace Defence Space (EADS) and Eurocopter.

ESEA's move from Loyang Way to Seletar Aerospace Park is scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2010. The new state-of-the-art facilities will cover an area of 8200 square metres and include a hangar which will be twice the size of the current one. This change in location will concern ESEA's staff of 200 professionals. 27 researchers from EADS Innovation Works (EADS IW) will also be relocated to this new facility of ESEA.

"This move will turn a new page in ESEA's history", says Mr. Philippe Harache, Eurocopter's Senior Executive Vice-President. "The new facilities will primarily allow both ESEA and EADS IW to expand its Maintenance Repair and Overhaul (MRO), training services, as well as Research and Development (R&D) activities. Other advantages include the possibility of reinforcing synergies within the EADS group, increasing efficiency and productivity, reducing fixed operation costs; all of which is of utmost importance during the current economic downturn."

To begin with, ESEA's additional hangar space will allow the company to accommodate more helicopters for MRO activities. Instead of the current capacity of 12 helicopters, ESEA's maintenance staff will soon be able to work on 24 helicopters at the same time.

Secondly, helicopter pilots and technicians from across South East Asia will soon have the privilege of undergoing courses in bigger and better-equipped facilities. There are currently around 350 trainees yearly for type rating, refresher, specific mission and on-job training courses at the Singapore Helicopter Training Centre (SHTC), ESEA's training branch. The new facility will enable the company to better cater to the various student training programs with local education institutions such as Institute of Technical Education (ITE), Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Nanyang Technological University etc.

Thirdly, ESEA and EADS IW will also be able to make use of this increased proximity to strengthen collaboration in innovation projects and R&D activities, which play a key role in the Group's global strategy today.

All in all, this move is proof of ESEA's willingness to expand its facilities in Singapore in order to support its regional business activity and a clear vote of confidence for Singapore's status as the regional aerospace hub in Asia.



About Eurocopter South East Asia

Eurocopter South East Asia (ESEA) is the Regional Headquarters of Eurocopter, the world's leading helicopter manufacturer. Established in 1977 in Singapore, ESEA is in-charge of the sales and customer support activities of 14 territories in the region. In 2008, ESEA achieved a turnover of 85 million euros. With a staff-strength of nearly 200 professionals, the company has developed a successful commercial network of Singapore-based sales team and regional sales managers and technical representatives.

About Eurocopter

Established in 1992, the Franco-German-Spanish Eurocopter Group is a Division of EADS, a world leader in aerospace, defence and related services. The Eurocopter Group employs approx. 15,600 people. In 2008, Eurocopter confirmed its position as the world's No. 1 helicopter manufacturer in the civil and parapublic market, with a turnover of 4.5 billion Euros, orders for 715 new helicopters, and a 53 percent market share in the civil and parapublic sectors. Overall, the Group's products account for 30 percent of the total world helicopter fleet. Its strong worldwide presence is ensured by its 18 subsidiaries on five continents, along with a dense network of distributors, certified agents and maintenance centres. More than 10,000 Eurocopter helicopters are currently in service with over 2,800 customers in more than 140 countries. Eurocopter offers the largest civil and military helicopter range in the world.

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