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From the President's Desk 1-2019

Dear Members,

Last year was a big year for AAIS, as we marked several significant events on the industry calendar including Singapore Airshow 2018, the launch of the Aerospace Industry Transformation Map, and our 15th anniversary. We were particularly pleased to celebrate our 15th Anniversary Gala Dinner with Minister Chan Chun Sing. As we move into 2019, the Association continues to keep up the pace, supporting and promoting the forward momentum of the industry.

Forward momentum

2 Against global economic uncertainty, Aviation and Aerospace stand out for their positive outlook, especially in the Asia-Pacific region. This is reflected in new and expansion projects in Singapore from key players in the industry, even as the government invests in Changi Airport, in anticipation of future demand.

3 Over the past months, we welcomed GE, Moog, PPG and CETIM to Seletar Aerospace Park. We saw expansions by Singapore Component Solutions, Jet Aviation and others. SIAEC and GE sealed their engine overhaul joint venture to be located in Loyang. Bombardier broke ground for the expansion of its Singapore Service Centre, which will more than quadruple its current footprint. Thales and Lufthansa also launched their regional innovation hubs here, giving a boost to the innovation-led transformation of our industry. On a smaller scale, our very own 'Runway21' serviced office was also buzzing with new business start-ups from Denmark, UK and USA. These companies will eventually add more depth to our aerospace ecosystem.

4 I am heartened to share that the Association has also seen an upward trend, with more than 10 new members recorded in the first quarter.

Making market connections

5 Last year, we turned our attention to strengthening our network in Asia. In January 2018, we launched our online Asia-Pacific Aviation Directory (www.aviationdirectory.biz), dedicated to connecting businesses in Asia. We also forged new collaborative agreements with the Korea Aerospace Industries Association (KAIA) and Malaysia Aerospace Industry Association (MAIA) in the second half of 2018. We continue to seek relevant opportunities for meaningful partnerships in the region and beyond.

6 To facilitate companies in their internationalisation efforts, we led business delegations and organised Singapore Pavilions at international industry fairs such as AP&M Europe, Aeromart Toulouse and the Japan International Aerospace Exhibition in 2018. Locally, we organised our largest yet pavilion for Commercial Aviation Services Asia-Pacific in November 2018.

Facilitating industry transformation

7 In conjunction with our 15th Anniversary Gala Dinner, we partnered the National Additive Manufacturing Cluster (NAMIC), launching a Joint Industry Innovation Programme to accelerate the development of Additive Manufacturing (AM) competencies for the industry. To-date, half a dozen projects have been started under this

programme. We also partnered with CAAS and EASA on an AM workshop which saw major European OEMs and Singapore companies exchanging notes on the progress of their AM programmes.

8 We continued to work on promoting digitalisation, with a Learning Journey to the Advanced Remanufacturing Technology Centre's new Model Digital Factory. This visit in January 2019 again drew strong participation from aerospace companies.

Rising to challenges

9 We were excited last year by the prospects of new connectivity via Seletar Airport when the new terminal building was opened. Unfortunately, issues arose over implementation of the Instrument Landing System approach procedures and the promulgation of a Restricted Area over Pasir Gudang. In our role as Voice of the Industry, AAIS opened a channel for the community to feedback to the authorities, and recommended guidelines for companies' communications to customers and headquarters. While operations continue with no impact to Seletar's accessibility, we look forward as an industry, to a smooth resolution of the issues.

What's Next

10 The Association has more exciting plans for 2019, top of which is the upcoming launch of the Singapore Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Community in April. With this, we will extend our scope to represent and serve the interests of the emerging UAS industry in Singapore. I welcome AAIS members with UAS interests to join the Community. Please contact our Programme Executive Ms Stephanie Lo (stephanie_lo@aaais.org.sg) to learn more.

11 Since our formation, many changes have taken place in the business environment and we are currently reviewing the AAIS Constitution. The aim is to ensure alignment with the Registry of Society's latest guidelines and Code of Governance, and to be better positioned for the future. Our review will soon be circulated to all members for your valuable inputs, with a view to formalising the amendments at our AGM in September.

12 In the meantime, I invite you to participate actively in our upcoming activities. Our calendar of events is updated regularly on our website (www.aaais.org.sg) and in our monthly e-newsletters. There is something for everyone – from conferences, trade exhibitions, and business missions, to technology seminars, inter-company sporting events, casual networking sessions, student engagement and more.

I wish you all great success and many new opportunities for your business!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Philip Quek', written over a circular stamp or seal.

Philip Quek
President