

5 May 2020

Open Letter: The Singapore Aerospace Community Stands in Solidarity with the Nation

Humanity faces a global health crisis and impending recession on a scale not seen since Singapore's independence. We cannot say what lies ahead or how long the journey will be. But we know these are times that will test the mettle of our nation and the fabric of our society.

2. In the early months of the pandemic, Singapore moved swiftly and decisively, taking action to limit the spread of the virus and protect the health and safety of all. We are grateful for the measures announced in the Unity, Resilience and Solidarity Budgets, which will help ease some burden for businesses, individuals and communities. The government has shown strong leadership and transparency in its handling of the pandemic.

3. As a community representing the Singapore aerospace industry, we stand in solidarity with our nation in our efforts to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic. Our industry is no stranger to severe external shocks. Our Association itself was born in adversity, soon after the aviation slump in the early 2000s due to 9-11 and SARS. We surmounted those challenges collectively, and the industry has since grown steadily to command a 10 percent share of the global maintenance, repair and overhaul market, and to provide jobs for 22,000 people.

4. As an essential service, the industry is supporting Singapore's vital aviation hub to keep the supply chain going. We are also continuing our efforts to make air travel more accessible, safer and sustainable. As we implement our plans for ensuring business continuity, like all

businesses, we are grappling with business and fiscal issues. However, our top concern is our employees' stability, well-being and job security. We are keen to ensure that the aerospace industry retains the talent and capabilities to provide critical support to the aviation sector once air travel recovers.

5. The aerospace community is turning to each other for mutual support and to share knowledge, experience, and resources. We have established an Aerospace COVID-19 Taskforce and organised sessions for the industry to collectively discuss issues, concerns and opportunities. Leaders from aerospace companies are stepping forward to share their knowhow and experience with the rest of the community.

6. We do not yet have a horizon for recovery, but are digging deep and persevering. We will ensure we operate with all recommended health and safety measures, including work from home, social distancing measures, and enhanced cleaning. This situation is also an opportunity to rethink our business processes, understand what is essential to our businesses and implement digital transformation.

7. On a personal level, we are learning to value family and relationships, rediscovering what is important and what defines us as Singaporeans. We are confident that we can manage and overcome this challenge as a nation and emerge stronger together.

Yours sincerely,

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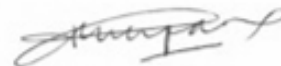
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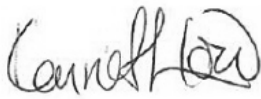
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