

MEDIA RELEASE

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**AAIS LAUNCHES PUBLICATION ON
SINGAPORE AEROSPACE INDUSTRY HERITAGE,
AND PROMISING ENTREPRENEURS PROGRAMME,
AT 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**

- **AAIS launches “Propel”, a commemorative book tracing the beginnings, rise and evolution of Singapore’s aviation and aerospace industries, featuring stories from major aerospace organisations on their development within the Singapore aerospace ecosystem and community.**
- **Announces the Promising Entrepreneurs Programme (PEP), a new year-long programme specially tailored by AAIS for the next generation of SME leaders to foster growth and development in the aerospace sector.**

The Association of Aerospace Industries (Singapore) marked the culmination of its 20th Anniversary celebrations with an industry Gala Dinner held on 9 November 2023. Mr Alvin Tan, Minister of State at Singapore’s Ministry of Trade & Industry and Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, graced the occasion as the evening’s guest-of honour. The Gala event was also attended by senior representatives from AAIS membership, industry professionals and the Association’s partners.

The Singapore aerospace sector has demonstrated a strong resurgence following the global downturn in air travel caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. It has since emerged as a **bright spot in Singapore’s manufacturing sector, with industrial production exceeding pre-COVID levels in the aerospace industry by 2022. The industry has continued this trajectory on the back of robust demand for aircraft maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) services, achieving a 20% growth in output during the first eight months of 2023 compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. According to the Singapore Economic Development Board, Singapore’s global market share in aerospace engine MRO has reached 15%, establishing it as the largest engine MRO industrial base in Asia Pacific.**

Celebrating Singapore Aviation and Aerospace Heritage

Marking this significant progress and as part of its 20th Anniversary celebrations, AAIS launched “Propel”, a commemorative book that traces the humble beginnings and fascinating rise of aviation and aerospace in Singapore. The book’s central narrative explores the history of aviation in Singapore, from the first airfields of the Royal Air Force to the development of Changi Airhub. These chapters were penned by Goh Yong Kiat, an industry veteran and author with several publications on Singapore's aviation and air defence history.

Interspersed between the central narrative are stories contributed by leading aerospace companies in Singapore – including SIA Engineering Company, ST Engineering, Airbus, Boeing, GE Aerospace, Pratt & Whitney, Collins, Rolls-Royce, Thales, and ACP Metals – as well as the Economic Development Board. Together, “Propel” paints a vibrant and collective portrait of the aerospace sector's growth, alongside the flourishing of Singapore’s air transport industry. (The book will be made available for sale to the public. See **Annex A** for more details.)

Initiative to Promote SME Development in Aerospace

AAIS also announced the Promising Entrepreneurs Programme (PEP), a new year-long programme tailored by AAIS to foster the growth and development of next generation SME leaders in the aerospace sector.

Recognising that many SME members are family-run businesses with multi-generational leadership, AAIS conceived PEP to equip these emerging leaders with the essential knowledge and skills to guide their companies into the future. The PEP receives support from the Transfingo group of companies, an AAIS member and SME, also celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year. (See **Annex B** for more details.)

Mr Alvin Tan said, “AAIS is a valuable partner of the Government as we seek to grow and develop our aerospace industry. The Promising Entrepreneurs Programme is yet another important initiative to groom the next generation of local aerospace leaders and bring the industry to new heights. I look forward to many more years of close partnership between the Government and AAIS.”

AAIS President Mr Wong Yue Jeen said, “We are proud to mark our 20th Anniversary with the launch of ‘Propel’ to preserve the story of Singapore’s aviation and aerospace journey. Exciting prospects await the industry, and we are also pleased to announce the Promising Entrepreneurs Programme which aims to help next generation SME leaders

grow and capture opportunities in aerospace. Looking ahead, we will continue working closely with our members and partners to drive the industry to the next frontier.”

AAIS 20th Anniversary

Established in 2003, AAIS emerged during a challenging period for the aviation industry, facing the aftermath of 9/11 and SARS. The Association once again demonstrated its value as a voice and pillar for the aerospace community during the COVID-19 pandemic, helping members and galvanising collective action through unprecedented business challenges.

With some 190 companies in its fold, AAIS represents a diverse range of stakeholders within the aviation, aerospace, and unmanned aircraft systems industries in Singapore. The initiatives launched at the Association’s 20th anniversary celebrations reflects its unwavering dedication to honour the legacies, celebrate achievements, and drive the advancement of Singapore's aerospace sector.

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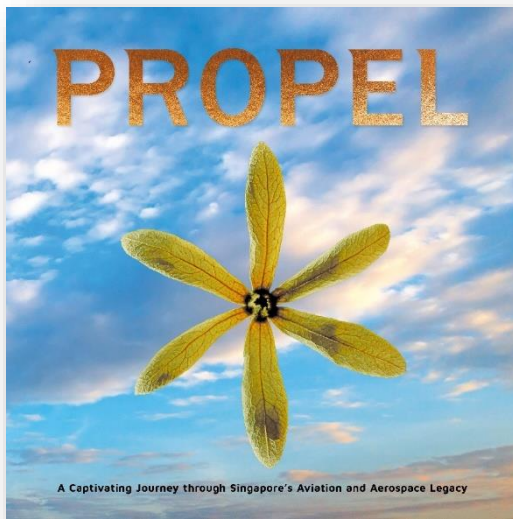
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About Us

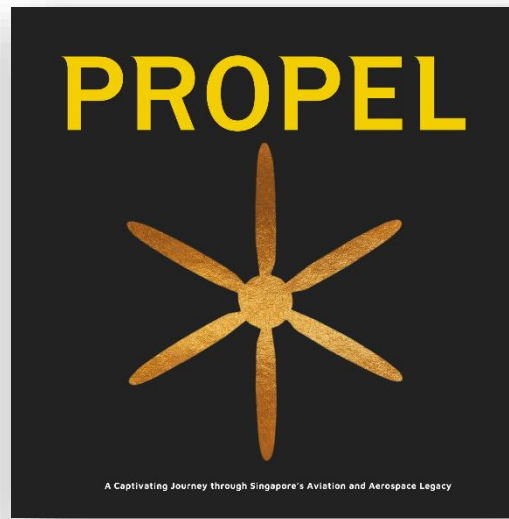
The Association of Aerospace Industries (Singapore) or AAIS, is a not-for-profit organisation established in 2003 to promote the development of Singapore as a leading aerospace hub. Its vision is “An Innovative Aerospace Community for a Sustainable Future.”

AAIS represents companies involved in aviation, aerospace and unmanned aircraft systems, including maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO), manufacturing, parts distribution, research & development, training and education, and aftermarket services. It serves as the voice of industry to influence future directions and policies, facilitates business and engenders the development of the industry community.

For more information, visit www.aaais.org.sg.

About "Propel"

Dust Jacket



Cover

From a small seed, sprouting from the critical need to maintain a fleet of defence aircraft protecting the borders of a young nation, an entire industry has flourished.

"Propel" is a special, commemorative publication by the Association of Aerospace Industries (Singapore) (AAIS) which traces the humble origins and awe-inspiring rise of aviation and aerospace in Singapore.

The book weaves together the enthralling history of the Singapore aviation and aerospace sectors, spanning from the inaugural airfields of the British Royal Air Force to the remarkable development of Changi Airhub. Amidst its central narrative lie captivating features by leading aerospace companies in Singapore. Their stories shed light on the pivotal decisions, people, and lesser-known anecdotes that have shaped the industry, painting a vibrant collective portrait of the aerospace sector's growth alongside the flourishing air transport industry in Singapore and the world.

As part of its 20th Anniversary celebrations, AAIS, with the strong support of the Singapore aerospace community, is proud to celebrate the milestones that have propelled the Singapore aerospace and aviation industries into the next frontier with the launch of this meaningful book.

The book is available for sale to the public at <https://aais.cococart.co/>

Authors

1. Mr Goh Yong Kiat
for Chapter 1: "Where Aviation Takes Off" through Chapter 6: "Airlines of Singapore" and "History of Singapore Civil Aircraft Registration"
2. Ms Glory Wee
for Chapter 7: "Growth and Transformation of Singapore's Aerospace Industry" and "Creating a Community"

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More information

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About the Promising Entrepreneurs Programme (PEP)

Aerospace is a growth industry with attractive opportunities for Singapore SMEs. The aerospace cluster in Singapore is one of the most developed in the region and its high-value engine MRO sector has captured 15% global market share according to EDB. It does however expect a high level of technical and business capabilities from its suppliers.

The PEP is a year-long programme spearheaded and specially tailored by AAIS to foster the growth and development of next generation SME leaders in the aerospace sector.

AAIS recognises that many SME members are family businesses with second, third or fourth generation leaders being prepared to take over the reins. The Association therefore conceived the PEP to help equip this next generation with the knowledge and skills to lead their companies.

The PEP will include industry visits, workshops and curated activities, equipping these young leaders with essential tools for success. The designated course leader, Dr Koh Pak Keng, is himself an entrepreneur, a leading cold-spray technology expert at ECK Pte Ltd, and AAIS member.

The PEP will also be supported by Transfingo Group of Companies, an AAIS member and SME, which is also celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year. Mr Kelvin Chung, founder and Group Managing Director, believes in fostering the development of fellow SMEs, and is appreciative of AAIS's support for his company's development over the years.

The inaugural batch of SMEs participating in the PEP are:

1. Chee Fatt Co (Pte) Ltd
2. Chemicals and Machinery Pte Ltd
3. Chemtron Pte Ltd
4. Fong Lee Metal Industries Pte Ltd
5. KBG Contract Machining Pte Ltd
6. Metalcool Pte Ltd
7. Metall-Treat Industries Pte Ltd
8. Sanxing Pte Ltd