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# Eurocopter Southeast Asia officially installed

■ By **Poon Seow Meng**

**E**urocopter heavyweights descended on Seletar Aerospace Park on January 11, 2011, to mark the official opening of Eurocopter Southeast Asia (ESEA).

The facility is a major milestone in the helicopter company's long-standing relationship with Singapore, established more than 30 years ago. The new facility (spanning 8,200sq m), is a key element of the growth strategy of this regional Eurocopter affiliate in the south-east Asian markets, described as "dynamic", by the company.

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The new facility has double the hangar capacity of the previous facility to support



ESEA's expansion in training services, MRO, R&D and design resources.

The doubling of hangar space significantly increases ESEA's MRO capabilities as 24 helicopters can now be accommodated, compared with 12. At the opening ceremony, the top tier management revealed that in 2010,

customer support (spares, training and technical assistance) together with repair and overhaul accounted for a total of 50 million euros in sales and 58 million euros in bookings. The new facility is set to raise these figures for this year.

The new will also spur activity in R&D, as it will house personnel from EADS Innovation Works, the worldwide research centre network for Eurocopter's EADS parent company.

ESEA's new facility is authorised for design modifications and repairs on Singapore-registered helicopters in terms of structures, avionics and electrical systems integration as well as cabin interiors and furnishings. This results from its recent Design organisation Approval issued by the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore, which builds on ESEA's status as the only subsidiary in Asia that



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is a Eurocopter Authorised Design Organisation.

ESEA's focus of business is in oil and gas exploration in Malaysia, India, China, Vietnam and Indonesia. Travel, tourism, business aviation and the parapublic markets are also on its radar.

On training, the new facility will offer an improved infrastructure with the Singapore helicopter Training Centre (SHTC), which has trained some 350 pilots

and technicians annually for type rating, refresher, specific mission and on-the-job training. The centre also provides training programmes for regional college and university students as part of its talent development plan to groom and nurture a pool of rotary-wing professionals.

Last year, ESEA achieved a turnover of 127 million euros, supporting the sales and customer support activities of 15 territories in the region. ■

## Flight Focus, AirAsia ink EFB agreement

**F**light Focus and AirAsia have signed an agreement for the installation of the next generation Electronic Flight Bag (EFB) solution, the Flight Focus PLATFORM™, onboard the airline's entire fleet, including more than 100 Airbus A320 aircraft.

The Flight Focus PLATFORM™ is an encompassing solution for EFB/E- Charts/Iridium Satellite Messaging/Web-based portal and Flight Tracking.

This is in addition to the services already provided by Flight Focus to AirAsia X, where the Airbus A330 and A340 fleets are already operating with its EFB on long-haul flights to destinations in Europe, Middle East, Australia and throughout Asia.

Flight Focus's Managing Director, Ralf Cabos, said "We are delighted to have been entrusted by AirAsia to implement the Flight Focus PLATFORM™ across their entire fleet of aircraft, adding the A320 fleet to our already supported A330 and A340 fleets.

"With the global reach and cost benefits of Iridium®, the flight crew of AirAsia have an 'always on' and 'real-time' messaging and alerting system that helps support proactive decision making processes and maintain excellent on-time performance. Embedding the Flight Focus PLATFORM™ into the business processes of an airline is key to both the airline and our success."

AirAsia's Captain Michael Lee, who spearheaded the project, said "We have been working closely with Flight Focus for a few years now on the EFB solutions provided to our wide body fleets and customised for Air Asia's requirements. As their launch customer, the system has worked and proven itself time and again.

"The EFB solution from Flight Focus provides us with a technologically advanced and user-friendly system. The performance software, Flight Focus dynamic flight planning system (FFIDS), e-charts and data analysis benefits us by saving up to five per cent of fuel.

"Going 'paperless' is the way forward and the weight saved points to fuel burn and emissions reductions. Pilots' workload is reduced through quick access to current operational data and other flight related documents contributing to a safe and efficient flight. With the EFB in an 'always on' configuration, duty dispatchers can constantly monitor position, have access to real-time performance parameters of the flight and communicate recommendations, company messages, latest weather trends and/or Notams to the crew, vice versa; complying with National Aviation Authority regulatory Flight Following requirements."

Flight Focus Pte Ltd is a flight operations solutions and services provider and its primary business is to provide airlines an open and complete EFB solution resulting in savings and efficiencies almost immediately via the Flight Focus PLATFORM™.