

CAAS launches two air-traffic R&D centres

MAPS is set up by CAAS in partnership with MITRE Corp of the US, and ATMRI is established with NTU

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THE Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) announced on Wednesday the inauguration of the MITRE Asia Pacific Singapore (MAPS) and the Air Traffic Management Research Institute (ATMRI).

The new centres will "improve the efficiency and safety of air traffic management in Singapore and the Asia-Pacific region" with the aim of developing Singapore as a "centre of excel-

lence" for air traffic management (ATM), said CAAS in a press release.

MAPS is a partnership between US-based not-for-profit organisation The MITRE Corporation and CAAS, and is MITRE's first research and development (R&D) centre outside America.

MITRE operates R&D centres while sponsored by the US federal government, and helps in scientific research and analysis, development and acquisition, and systems engineering and integration.

The 10,000-square-foot MAPS features the re-creation of significant capabilities from MITRE's Integration Demonstration and Experimentation for Aeronautics Laboratory, including a cockpit simulator, wrap-around tower, area and approach air traffic controller workstations, and advanced traffic-flow management tools.

Said MITRE senior vice-president Lillian Ryals: "The full suite of capabilities we offer is tailored to support Singapore and the Asia-Pacific region, and will serve to demonstrate the fu-

ture and make new concepts and technologies come alive."

ATMRI is Singapore's first institute dedicated to ATM R&D, and is set up by CAAS and the Nanyang Technological University (NTU).

It will assist in nurturing talent in the ATM domain and translate academic-based research into ATM solutions. Some of its work areas include air route modelling and simulation, aviation weather research and unmanned aircraft systems management in ATM.

Separately, at Wednesday's 5th World Civil Aviation Chief Executives Forum, Minister for Transport and Second Minister for Defence Lui Tuck Yew said: "Today, aviation directly accounts for 6 per cent of Singapore's gross domestic product and provides more than 170,000 jobs."

He added: "We hope that such collaborations (MAPS and ATMRI) will bring about innovations, transform regional air traffic management, and allow the region to handle the continued growth in air traffic – safely."

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