



Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SINGAPORE TO ESTABLISH WORLD'S FIRST AIRPORT TESTBED

FOR NEXT GENERATION PROPULSION TECHNOLOGIES

Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore, CFM International and Airbus sign MOU to prepare the aviation ecosystem for next generations of aircraft with a focus on Open Fan technology

The Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS), CFM International and Airbus signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish Singapore as the world's first airport testing ground for operations of CFM's next generation Revolutionary Innovation for Sustainable Engines (RISE) technologies, with a focus on Open Fan engine architecture. The partnership will study the impact of Open Fan and other RISE programme technologies on airport operations to develop a comprehensive readiness framework that serves as the global blueprint for airframers, airports, and airlines worldwide. The MOU was signed at the 3rd Changi Aviation Summit on 2 February 2026 by Director-General of CAAS, Mr Han Kok Juan, David Dufrenois, Chief Executive Officer, Safran Singapore, signing on behalf of CFM International and Executive Vice-President of Engineering for Commercial Aircraft Business and Head of Technology at Airbus, Mr Rémi Maillard.

RISE Programme

2 RISE is a technology demonstration programme by CFM to advance next generation commercial aircraft engine technologies, including the innovative Open Fan architecture that removes the traditional casing, allowing for a larger fan size with less drag. The RISE programme prioritises safety, durability, and efficiency, targeting more than 20% better fuel efficiency compared to commercial engines in service today. Beyond propulsive efficiency, Open Fan engine architecture is being developed to reduce emissions, lower noise, and ensure compatibility with future hybrid-electric systems, positioning it as a cornerstone technology for efficient air travel from the next generation of commercial narrow-body aircraft.

3 Under the MOU, the parties will:

- a) Co-develop a comprehensive readiness framework to integrate Open Fan engines for the next generations of aircraft, into existing airport operations, including aircraft system and design considerations, infrastructure modifications if any, operational procedure changes, safety standards, and regulatory procedures.
- b) Leverage Singapore's aviation ecosystem to exchange technical and operational expertise across areas, including airport design, safety protocols, regulatory frameworks, and operational procedures to inform the readiness framework development.
- c) Plan to conduct operational trials of the RISE programme's Open Fan engine demonstrators at Singapore Changi Airport or Seletar Airport to test and validate the readiness framework and assess operational feasibility of this new technology.



4 Mr Han Kok Juan, Director-General of CAAS, said: "CFM International's and Airbus's partnership with CAAS to establish in Singapore the world's first airport testbed for next generation propulsion technologies is testament to Singapore's offering as an integrated air hub with strong regulatory expertise where companies can testbed technologies and develop real-world protocols for deployment at scale globally."

5 Mr Gaël Méheust, President & Chief Executive Officer of CFM International, said: "This first-of-its-kind agreement is a huge boon for the CFM RISE development program. These technologies are designed to deliver unprecedented improvements in fuel efficiency (and emissions) in a highly robust future product that can support demanding operations. Now, having the ability to perform a real-world demonstration – from ground handling to maintenance actions, to airport operations – will give airlines and, hopefully, the flying public, confidence in the safety, durability, and efficiency of Open Fan."

6 Mr Remi Maillard, Executive Vice-President Engineering for the Commercial Aircraft business and Head of Technology Airbus, said: "We are excited to be partnering with CAAS and CFM to take new propulsion system technologies to the next level of maturity by testing them against future operational requirements. And what better place to do it than in Singapore where we can rely on a state-of-the-art aerospace ecosystem. Airbus is committed to pioneering sustainable aerospace, and this partnership is a testament to that."

About the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore

The mission of the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) is to grow a safe, vibrant air hub and civil aviation system, making a key contribution to Singapore's success. CAAS' roles are to oversee and promote safety in the aviation industry, develop the air hub and aviation industry, provide air navigation services, provide aviation training for human resource development, and contribute to the development of international civil aviation. For more information, visit www.caas.gov.sg.

About CFM International

A 50/50 joint venture between GE Aerospace and Safran Aircraft Engines, CFM International has redefined international cooperation and helped change the course of commercial aviation since its founding in 1974. Today, CFM is the world's leading supplier of commercial aircraft engines with a product line that sets the industry standard for efficiency, reliability, durability, and optimized cost of ownership. CFM produces the LEAP family of engines and supports LEAP and CFM56 fleets for operators worldwide. For the future of air transport, CFM's RISE program is accelerating development of new propulsion technologies that will pave the way for the next generation of aircraft. For more information, visit www.cfmaeroengines.com.

About Airbus

Airbus pioneers sustainable aerospace for a safe and united world. The Company constantly innovates to provide efficient and technologically advanced solutions in aerospace, defence, and connected services. In commercial aircraft, Airbus designs and manufactures modern and fuel-efficient airliners and associated services. Airbus is also a European leader in space systems, defence and security. In helicopters, Airbus provides efficient civil and military rotorcraft solutions and services worldwide.

For more information, visit: <https://www.airbus.com/en>

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