



MALAYSIAN AEROSPACE NEWSLETTER

1st Edition 2026

**SERVING MALAYSIA'S
AEROSPACE INDUSTRY**

Leading The Malaysian Aerospace Industry Forward With
A Common Objective Of Continued Development And
Growth

Navigating the Challenges in 2026

With the current geopolitical situation global supply chains are evolving, whilst OEM requirements continue to tighten, and our need for skilled talent intensifies to meet industry demands. Malaysia's aerospace sector is undoubtedly entering a decisive new chapter as increasingly we are better positioned to seize current opportunities. The Malaysian aerospace landscape being at this pivotal junction is thankfully strongly supported by various government initiatives in meeting the ambitious targets set under the Malaysian Aerospace Industry Blueprint 2030 and through the execution of the New Industrial Master Plan 2030.

Over the past year, we have seen encouraging signals where OEMs and Tier-1s are expanding their regional footprint and Malaysia's manufacturing capabilities are earning renewed confidence from global partners. MRO demand continues to rise at pace through overall global air traffic growth and airlines retain older aircraft as demand outstrips new deliveries. However, it is essential for our industry sector to adapt and heighten their productivity and efficiency. Such competing pressures will require further process innovation, automation and the need to digitalise. Supplier and customer demands for sustainability need to be met alongside the on-going need to upskill staff. MAIA will continue to emphasise the importance of such critical issues.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Capability development will continue to be key not only to grow our technical prowess in advanced manufacturing and aftermarket processes but also to assure business growth, ensure efficiency and productivity and ensure the various demands of the client base are met. The significant drive towards Environmental, Social, and Governance factors is no longer an ideal but an essential element for OEMs and Tier 1 players to meet their net zero objectives. To continue to be successful our aerospace industry must take the lead in sustainable manufacturing and aftermarket readiness. Growth in our capability will require funding and we now have the support of various financial institutions including MBSB, MIDF and MTDC where our members should take advantage of the many schemes available.

HIGH-VALUE INNOVATION

This month MAIA held a workshop on avionics innovation enhancement to underscore the firm foundation Malaysia has clearly developed in the electrical and electronics sector. Later this year we will organise workshops covering improved supply chain measures to ensure our aerospace community can take advantage of the current various techniques and technologies. In order for Malaysia to continue to encourage growth and offer technical advantage a shift in our collective strategy is required by moving beyond assembly into the high-value domains of design and engineering excellence so that we are no longer building components but offering engineering solutions. The 2026 MAIA President Award winners will be announced during our President's Dinner on July 9 aimed at recognising those companies and individuals who have demonstrated successful leadership across these various areas.

Managing Director's Note



"To take advantage of the current opportunities it is imperative that we reach a higher level of globally focused leadership, innovation, and sustainable growth. Our association is keen to collaborate with you as we collectively ascend to greater heights over the year"

-David Jones

PROMOTING OUR INDUSTRY

This will remain at the center of our entire agenda. Energy-efficient production and maintenance procedures have undoubtedly accelerated initiatives in this field. Together with NAICO, our association has promoted discussions on carbon reduction, helping members comply with new regulations and establishing Malaysia as a responsible aerospace participant. To increase our exposure and knowledge of this crucial subject, we attended the latest ICAO Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection in Singapore.

In addition, in June we are organising a trade mission to Germany and Austria to help promote our companies to these two important economies. This is kindly part supported by our partners in both nations. We also will be present at the upcoming Farnborough Airshow in July and for this is an essential showcase for our manufacturers and MROs to strengthen or break into the global market. Deepening such global linkages with OEMs and Tier 1s, and international associations will be key in positioning Malaysia as a trusted partner in the global supply chain.

As our infrastructure grows, our people will need more specialised skills. Talent pipeline and development are key to ensure we ensure the requisite skill base to meet these demands. In this respect, whilst we strongly support the recent Employment Pass reforms, in transition these will need to more closely aligned with the requirements of our high-value industry.

The above areas are necessary steps to ensure Malaysia remains competitive in a rapidly evolving global landscape. Our members are already demonstrating what is possible when industry collaborates with purpose as seen through recently announced investments, formulation of new partnerships, the gaining of new certifications and developing pathways for upskilling staff. Further, we will need to ensure our leadership is focused on the priority areas. This will be the theme of our Senior Leadership Conference to be held in September. Here we will be exploring over two days the key issues within our industry with presentations and discussions led by many international speakers.

MAIA's role becomes more critical than ever in shaping and guiding our industry under competing demands. The opportunities for Malaysia to be a primary aerospace hub in Southeast Asia requires a unified front. As such looking ahead I would encourage every member to engage deeply with our upcoming programs.

With a shared commitment to excellence, we can truly elevate Malaysia's presence in the global supply chain. MAIA remains committed to support our members, amplify your successes, and ensure that Malaysia's aerospace story continues to be promoted and grow.

Powering Our Workforce, Elevating Our Global Reach Strengthening Malaysia's Aerospace Future

Driving Growth • Fostering Collaboration • Expanding International Footprint

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AT THE CORE

Upskilling and collaborations ensure our members remain globally competitive

Our ability to remain competitive in the global marketplace is contingent upon the continued development of our workforce.

Our association's objective to guarantee that Malaysia's talent pool is globally competitive and future-ready is facilitated by our involvement with HRD Corp and Talent Corp, as well as our human capital committee's emphasis on skills development. This has consisted of the development of specialised skills and leadership and management practices through the training program in collaboration with Crest, which was effectively extended beginning in 2024. We are currently in the process of establishing an apprenticeship framework through the efforts of our committee. Additionally, we have collaborated with the Malaysian Employees Federation to engage members in a salary and benefits review.



Over the past year,

we have hosted trade missions from Germany, the Czech Republic, Austria, and France in order to promote our aerospace industry to the global supply chain. This has allowed us to continue to cultivate a variety of technological and collaborative opportunities for our members. Additionally, we were invited to participate in two panel sessions at the ICCAIA Conference in Montreal and exhibited at the Paris Airshow. Furthermore, our association is pleased to serve as a board member of the Global Aerospace Cluster Partnership and chair the Associate Members Forum under ICCAIA as part of our endeavors to promote Malaysia as an aerospace nation.



We also organised a number of networking events, including our premier event, the President's Dinner, which was attended by over 440 senior-level industry and government officials. Our guest of honor, Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz, presented six awards. Throughout the year, we also organized numerous networking events, such as our annual golf tournament and our inaugural joint association event with the Association of Aerospace Industries Singapore to promote the JS-SEZ. The event was attended by 80 guests. Three seminars were also conducted throughout the year, which focused on the aero-manufacturing, advanced air mobility, and avionics sectors.

Our association was the first to organise a pavilion at LIMA 25. This was a significant milestone, and we are grateful to the members who opted to collaborate with us. Furthermore, we exhibited pavilions at both SAS 25 and MyAero 25. We were able to successfully organize our inaugural Aerospace Conference with the assistance of Crest and the Malaysian Institute of Management. We would like to extend our gratitude to the numerous members who generously agreed to present on a variety of topics and themes.

We will persist in our efforts to promote the further adoption of environmental sustainability practices, advanced processes, and digitalization mechanisms in order to further fortify Malaysia's position in the global aerospace ecosystem as we progress into the new year. Through the initiatives implemented by MBSB and MTDC, we will collaborate with our SMEs to facilitate their funding and increase their opportunities.

We would like to take this occasion to express our sincerest appreciation to our members, partners, and stakeholders for their unwavering commitment and confidence in the vision and mission of our association over the past year. As we continue to share knowledge, best practices, and foster B2B engagements, as well as advocate for policies that enhance our global competitiveness, we are sincerely grateful for your collaboration and commitment through our Technical Subcommittees, workshops, exhibitions, forums, and business networking events.

INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

The aerospace industry continues to demonstrate strong momentum driven by innovation, sustainability initiatives, and increasing global demand for advanced aviation solutions. Key developments across manufacturing, maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO), and digital transformation are shaping a more resilient and competitive ecosystem.



**UMW Aerospace Made History
Delivering First Malaysian-Made Rear
Fan Case For Rolls-Royce**



**Malaysia joins GE Aerospace
training programme**



**Naico Malaysia upbeat on aerospace
industry expansion**



**Malaysia's aerospace industry
must adapt to global
transformation — Sim**

GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

The global aerospace industry continues to demonstrate strong recovery and innovation in 2026, driven by advancements in technology, sustainability initiatives, and increasing international collaboration. Key developments across major markets highlight growing demand, expanded manufacturing capabilities, and strengthened global supply chain resilience within the aerospace ecosystem.



Airbus deliveries accelerate in March as widebody output ramps up



Safran CEO Sees Sustained Engine MRO Activity



Malaysia can emerge as super connector in Asia-Pacific aviation sector – Airbus



Boeing maintains strong delivery pace through Q1 2026

MAIA NEW MEMBERS

The Malaysia Aerospace Industry Association (MAIA) continues to expand its network in 2026 with the inclusion of new members from across the aerospace value chain. These members represent diverse expertise in manufacturing, MRO, engineering services, and technology innovation, further strengthening MAIA's role in driving collaboration, industry growth, and global competitiveness within Malaysia's aerospace ecosystem.

The logo for ACRATS features the word "ACRATS" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. A stylized yellow and green aircraft tail fin is integrated into the letter 'A'.

ACRATS (M) Sdn Bhd

The logo for BETAMEK consists of a red circular icon containing a white stylized 'B' on the left, followed by the word "BETAMEK" in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

Betamek Research Sdn Bhd

The logo for HiNDT features a stylized blue dragon head profile on the left, with the word "HiNDT" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font to its right.

CHiNDT (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd

The logo for GSH Precision Technology Sdn Bhd features the letters "GSH" in a large, blue, stylized font, with "PRECISION TECHNOLOGY SDN BHD" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font below it.

GSH Precision Technology Sdn Bhd

The logo for IDEMCO features the word "IDEMCO" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, with the letter 'I' in red, all contained within a white rectangular box.

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Integrated Education Link (M)
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Sapura Aero Sdn
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MAIA NEWSLETTER

INDUSTRY UPDATES

EXPERT PERSPECTIVES

STRATEGIC INSIGHTS

INDUSTRY INSIGHT: Q&A WITH THE EXPERTS



ADE[®]

CEO OF ADE, MR MAHESH KUMAR

Topic : Redefining MRO in Asia: The Vision and Growth of Asia Digital Engineering

What inspired the establishment of ADE, and what strategic gap in the aerospace MRO market were you aiming to address?

Founding Vision

ADE was born at a time when the aviation industry faced its greatest crisis. In 2020, as COVID-19 brought global travel to a halt, the immediate priority was survival—but equally important was preserving talent and capability within the industry. The idea behind ADE was simple yet urgent: to save jobs, retain critical engineering expertise, and build something resilient for the future.

At the same time, we saw a clear gap in the market—not just in how MROs operate, but in overall capacity. Malaysia needs more MRO players to meet the growing regional demand. We have the right fundamentals: a strong talent pool, immense potential, and a strategic geographic position at the heart of Asia. With the right ecosystem, Malaysia is well placed to become the leading MRO hub in the region.

ADE brands itself as a digital-first MRO. How does this approach differentiate ADE from traditional maintenance providers in Asia?

Digital-First Positioning

Being digital-first is not about adding technology onto existing processes—it is about rethinking the entire operating model. At ADE, digitalisation is embedded across our ecosystem, from artificial intelligence (AI) and real-time data tracking to efficient workflows and integrated engineering systems.

This allows us to reduce downtime, improve accuracy, and enhance decision-making, while upholding safety and quality. For our customers, it translates into faster turnaround times, greater transparency, and more reliable outcomes. In an industry where minutes matter, digital capability becomes a true competitive advantage.

ADE achieved dual EASA and FAA certification in 2025 — what does this mean for the company's credibility and international reach?

We are proud to have earned approvals from multiple international authorities, but EASA and FAA stand as the most stringent benchmarks. Securing both signals to the world that ADE is trusted, capable, and ready to operate on a truly global stage.

Beyond credibility, these certifications significantly expand our international reach. They enable us to serve a broader range of global airlines with confidence, opening new markets and reinforcing our position as a world-class MRO provider—not just in Southeast Asia, but globally.

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Key Milestones

At ADE, safety is our core—it is the foundation of everything we do. We do not just aim to meet regulatory requirements; we strive to exceed them. Achieving both EASA and FAA certifications, widely regarded as the gold standards in global aviation, is a reflection of that commitment. It places ADE among a select group of MRO providers that operate at the highest levels of safety, quality, and technical excellence.

Beyond regulatory achievements, several milestones stand out. One of the most significant was securing USD100 million in funding during the height of COVID-19, which enabled us to build for the future when the industry was under extreme pressure.

We also rapidly scaled operations, launching a 14-line hangar and completing over 280 C-checks in under five years—demonstrating both speed and consistency at scale. In parallel, we transitioned from a startup concept into a high-performing MRO, expanding our customer base beyond our anchor airline to global carriers such as Air France.

Most importantly, our impact on people remains a key milestone—creating jobs, training and nurturing aviation talent, and building a strong Allstars culture where performance and teamwork go hand in hand.

How have international certifications and regulatory approvals strengthened ADE's credibility and global positioning?

Regulatory & Global Credentials

In aviation, trust is everything. International certifications are not just regulatory requirements—they are endorsements of our capability, discipline, and commitment to excellence.

These approvals allow us to compete on equal footing with established global MROs, while reinforcing confidence among customers, partners, and stakeholders that ADE operates at the highest international standards.

How is ADE leveraging digital tools, predictive analytics, and engineering innovation to enhance operational efficiency and turnaround times?

Innovation & Technology

At ADE, digitalisation is driven by a dedicated Digital & Innovation Services department, focused on building and deploying in-house technology tailored for aviation MRO operations—ensuring digital capability is fully embedded in how we work, not treated as an add-on.

Two flagship platforms anchor this ecosystem: AEROTRADE®, Asia's first aviation procurement marketplace connecting over 200 global airlines, MROs and suppliers with more than USD244 million in inventory; and ELEVADE™, an integrated digital ecosystem for fleet, people, and materials management. ELEVADE currently monitors over 200 aircraft and 3,000 personnel across ASEAN, enabling real-time visibility, predictive maintenance, and workforce optimisation.

Together, these platforms—powered by deep engineering data and industry experience—enable predictive and prescriptive maintenance, data-driven insights, and faster decision-making, significantly improving turnaround times while upholding the highest standards of safety, compliance, and operational excellence.

Competitive Advantage

In an increasingly competitive ASEAN MRO landscape, what gives ADE a sustainable competitive edge?

Our competitive edge lies in the combination of agility, deep engineering heritage, and strong digital capability. Although ADE is a relatively young organisation, we carry more than 20 years of aviation engineering experience. We are also responsible for supporting the engineering operations of the world's best low-cost airline, recognised 16 times in a row, which has given us unmatched operational depth, discipline, and scale.

As a result, we are not constrained by legacy systems or outdated processes. This allows us to move faster, adapt quicker, and continuously innovate.

How has ADE balanced rapid expansion with maintaining safety, quality, and operational excellence?

Scaling Infrastructure

Growth without discipline is unsustainable, especially in aviation. From the outset, we embedded safety and quality into every layer of our operations—ensuring they are never compromised by scale.

ADE currently operates across Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Cambodia, with Thailand coming soon. In total, we support operations across around 20 airports in ASEAN, building a strong regional footprint while continuing to grow in Malaysia.

Looking ahead, we also see strong opportunities for further expansion, including into the Middle East.

Alongside this geographic growth, we have invested heavily in infrastructure, processes, governance, and people. Every new capability is developed with the same rigor and adherence to international standards, ensuring that safety and quality remain consistent no matter how fast we scale.

What leadership principles have guided you in building ADE into one of the region's fastest-growing aviation engineering companies?

Leadership Philosophy

We all come from AirAsia, and that is where our “low cost, high value” DNA was formed. Working under the leadership of Tony Fernandes and Kamarudin Meranun, we learned that aviation can be transformed by challenging norms, moving fast, and always delivering value with discipline and simplicity. That mindset is deeply embedded in how we built ADE.

I also believe strongly in empowering people—giving teams ownership, encouraging innovation, and creating an environment where they can perform at their best. Ultimately, ADE's strength lies in its people, and leadership is about enabling them to succeed while staying true to a clear purpose and culture.

How is ADE cultivating engineering talent and building a high-performance culture in a highly regulated industry?

Culture & Talent Development

We take a long-term view on talent development. ADE is not just a workplace—it is a platform for growth. We invest heavily in our people through continuous learning, structured development pathways, and clear opportunities for career progression.

Building on this, we are also investing in our own dedicated training centre, which will provide structured type training courses and further strengthen our capability to develop future-ready aviation engineers in-house.

At the same time, we foster a culture of accountability, collaboration, and excellence—where high performance is both expected and supported, and where our Allstars are empowered to grow, deliver, and succeed.

How is ADE contributing to positioning Malaysia and Southeast Asia as a leading global MRO hub?

Industry Impact

We are very focused on raising the benchmark of the region by operating at global standards and competing confidently on the international stage, proving that Malaysia and Asean can lead in aviation MRO, not just support it.

By securing and expanding a global customer base, we are strengthening confidence in the region's capabilities and quality. At the same time, we continue to invest in our people—creating jobs, developing talent, and building strong infrastructure—ensuring that external excellence is matched by strong internal capability.

As the MRO market evolves, how does ADE plan to collaborate with partners across the value chain?

Collaboration is key to long-term success. We actively work with OEMs, airlines, technology providers, and regulators to drive innovation and improve industry standards.

As the market evolves, partnerships will become even more critical in unlocking new capabilities, enhancing efficiency, and delivering greater value to customers.

What are ADE's top strategic priorities over the next three to five years?

I also believe strongly in empowering people—giving teams ownership, encouraging innovation, and creating an environment where they can perform at their best. Ultimately, ADE's strength lies in its people, and leadership is about enabling them to succeed while staying true to a clear purpose and culture.

Future Strategy

Our focus is on scaling sustainably. This includes expanding our capabilities, deepening our digital integration, and growing our international customer base.

What key message would you like to share with MAIA's readership about ADE's future direction and long-term legacy?

Our ambition is to create a lasting legacy: a company that is globally respected, driven by innovation, and committed to developing people while delivering value to the industry.

Future Strategy

ADE was built on resilience and purpose, and that will continue to define our journey. We are not just building an MRO—we are shaping the future of aviation engineering in this region.



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2026 Upcoming MAIA Events

The Malaysia Aerospace Industry Association provides key aerospace events to explore the latest advancements and network within the aerospace community in 2026



Register Now

President's Dinner 2026

9th July 2026 | Thursday | 7.00 PM – 11.00 PM
M Resort & Hotel Kuala Lumpur
President's Ballroom

Osprey Sponsor SAFRAN Aludra Sponsor APACS



MAIA President's Dinner 2026

9th July 2026

M Resort & Hotel Kuala Lumpur



MAIA Aerospace Strategic Leadership Conference

14-15th October 2026

Hilton Glenmarie Shah Alam



MAIA Golf Retreat 2026

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President's Dinner 2026

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9th JULY 2026
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M RESORT & HOTEL
President's Ballroom

7:00 PM - 11:00 PM



MAIA MEMBERS



RM 299

NORMAL PRICE: RM399



RM 2688

NORMAL PRICE: RM3688

NON - MAIA MEMBERS



RM 399

NORMAL PRICE: RM499



RM 3688

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TOGETHER, ELEVATING THE FUTURE OF AEROSPACE

Upcoming Aerospace Industry Events in 2026

Highlights key local and international aerospace events to explore the latest advancements and network within the international aerospace community in 2026 across worldwide



MyAero Summit 2026

25 - 27 June 2026

This summit will offer comprehensive talks and exhibits that cater to both industry veterans and newcomers.



Farnborough International Airshow 2026

20 - 24 July 2026

Farnborough, UK

One of the most prestigious aerospace events in the world, offering global networking and exhibition opportunities.



MRO Asia Pacific 2026

22 - 24 September 2026

Singapore will host one of Asia-Pacific's premier aviation maintenance events, uniting global MRO leaders and aerospace professionals to discuss emerging technologies, industry trends, and strategic business opportunities.



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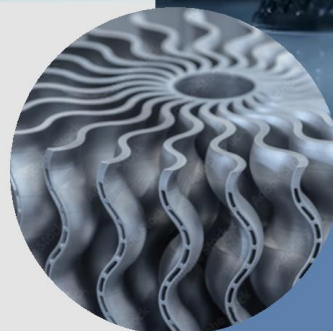
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Interested to be MAIA Member?

CATEGORY OF MAIA MEMBERS

ORION Corporate CORE (Invitation Only)	NEBULA Corporate Large Companies	AURORA Corporate Medium Companies	STELLAR Corporate Small Companies	HORIZON Associate Member
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For more information on membership benefits and categories, visit:

<https://maia.my/membership-benefits-program>

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CONNECT WITH US

Explore cutting-edge developments, industry insights, and collaboration opportunities on our website, and connect with us on LinkedIn, Facebook, and X for the latest developments. Subscribe and stay aligned with the pulse of aerospace innovation—where industry leaders, technology, and ambition take flight.



The banner features a hand holding a megaphone on the left, with a network diagram of blue dots and lines above it. The MAIA logo is in the top right corner. The main text reads 'ADVERTISE WITH US!' followed by 'Promote your Aerospace services on MAIA website'. A 'CONTACT US' button is present, with the email 'inquiries@maia.my' below it. The bottom of the banner includes social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and a website icon, with corresponding handles: 'Malaysia Aerospace Industry Association', '@MAIAmalaysia', '@MAIAmalaysia', and 'maia.my'.

