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KNOWLEDGE QUEST

Singapore Institute of Technology's newest degree programme is poised to take the local aerospace industry to greater heights

MEREDITH WOO

COME September this year, the first batch of 48 students will begin their Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Aircraft Systems Engineering (ASE) journey with the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT).

This three-year degree programme was developed in collaboration with SIA Engineering Company (SIAEC) — the engineering division of Singapore Airlines — which specialises in aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) services. The aim is to provide well-equipped and industry-ready talent for MRO work.

SIT's associate professor, Dr Eicher Low shares his views on the programme:

How did this partnership with SIAEC come about?

In 2013, before SIT was conferred its autonomous university status, it wanted to launch its own MRO degree to beef up the number of aircraft engineers for Singapore's aviation industry.

Such engineers would have to embark on the Licensed Aircraft Engineer (LAE) training.

However, to do so, the institution

would require significant investments in specialised infrastructure such as hangars, aircraft and tools, as regulated by the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore.

Hence, it was neither practical nor cost-effective for SIT to offer such a degree.

However, we saw an opportunity to partner an industry player with such an infrastructure to co-deliver the LAE training programme.

This would provide students with

the skills to service and maintain aircraft and sophisticated flight computer systems.

Since 2014, SIT has had discussions with SIAEC and navigated several hurdles to finally get the programme approved in late 2017. So far, enrolment numbers have been very positive.

What will this programme do for the industry?

Compared to a generic engineering degree, the ASE degree equips under-

graduates with the relevant knowledge and skills for the aerospace and MRO industry.

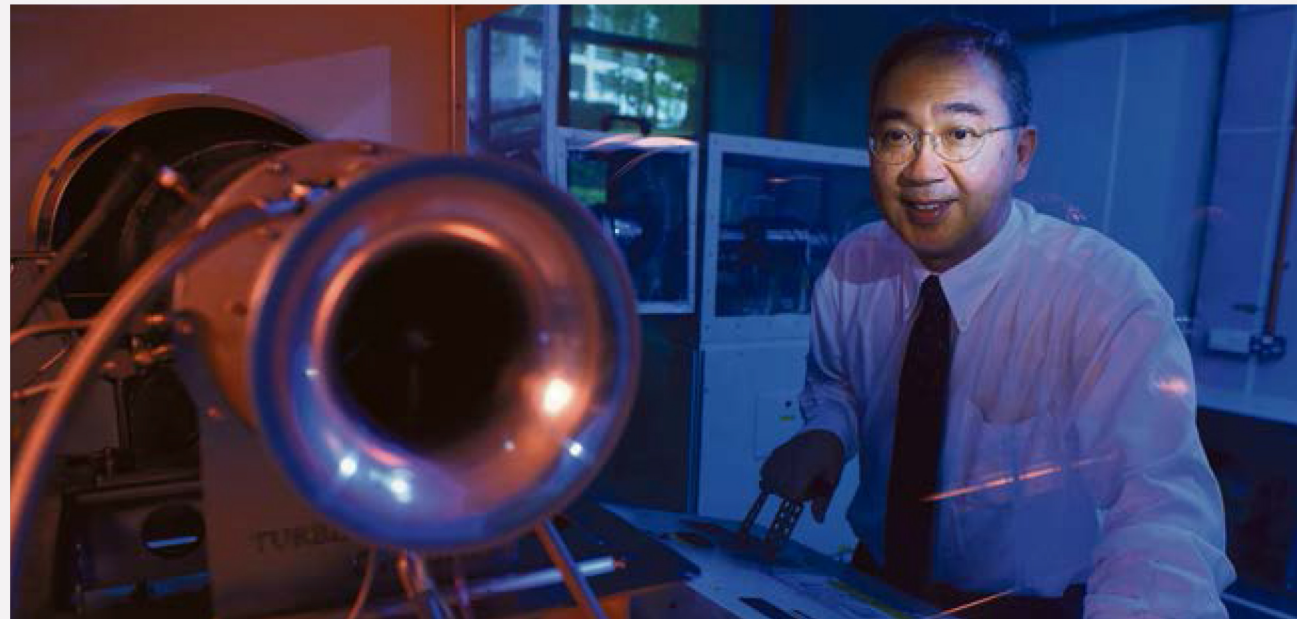
This programme will also inject graduates more quickly into the workforce. Those who aspire to be LAEs will find this programme very useful as they can earn a Certificate of Recognition (CoR) from SIAEC.

A typical LAE training programme requires 44 to 48 months of full-time training.

In comparison, ASE graduates with a CoR only need to complete the remaining 28 to 32 months of training with the employer.

Employers also benefit because they can enjoy reduced training costs and grow their manpower pool more quickly.

Besides careers as LAEs, ASE programme graduates can consider positions such as process, quality and product engineers; fleet management managers; project engineers and technical service/repair development engineers within the aerospace industry.



Through SIT's new ASE programme, graduates will be able to acquire their Aircraft Maintenance Licence in a much shorter time than their peers, says Dr Low. PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

DEGREE

Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Aircraft Systems Engineering

DURATION

Three years

CORE SUBJECTS

Fixed Wing Systems, Aviation Legislation and Group Design Project

FEES

Please enquire upon enrolment

Visit www.singaporetech.edu.sg for more information.

The sky is the limit