

## News Release

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### **Melbourne hosts global research centre on Air Traffic Management**

A new research and development centre that will pioneer developments to make air travel safer, more efficient and greener has been officially opened in Melbourne at Thales Australia's Air Operations facility.

The Centre for Advanced Studies in Air Traffic Management or CASIA was officially opened today by the Victorian Minister Responsible for the Aviation Industry, The Hon. Gordon Rich-Phillips.

The centre will play a key role in developing next generation air traffic management systems.

CASIA has been made possible by significant financial support from the Victorian Government, which has played an active role in helping Thales Australia build its ATM business over many years.

Chris Jenkins, Thales Australia's CEO, said CASIA represented the evolution of a hi-tech business that had delivered significant export successes.

"From small beginnings, we have expanded to become a global powerhouse that has delivered an advanced ATM system to Australia, and secured more than \$1 billion of exports to over 50 countries including China, South Africa, Mexico and the Philippines.

"This success demonstrates the benefits of long term investment, a commitment to building skills, and ongoing excellence in research and development. Our ATM business employs around 400 highly skilled people in Melbourne.

"CASIA is the next chapter in this story, and will play a key role in global research efforts on improving air traffic management. It will be closely integrated with research and development underway in Europe under the Single European Sky (SESAR) program and the US Next Gen ATM program, enabling world leading research from both Europe and the US to be adapted for the Asia Pacific region. We are very grateful to the Victorian Government for their close cooperation and support."

Located within the company's existing Melbourne premises, CASIA will pioneer innovative solutions to make air travel safer, more efficient and greener, and deliver numerous benefits to local and international airlines, Air Navigation Service Providers and defence forces.

Thales's customers, partners and suppliers, plus other ATM stakeholders such as airlines, airports and the military, will also be able to make use of CASIA, along with Victorian universities and other educational institutions.

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## **About Thales**

Thales is a global technology leader for the Defence & Security and the Aerospace & Transport markets. In 2010, the company generated revenues of €13 billion (equivalent of AUD 23 billion) with 68,000 employees in 50 countries. With its 22,500 engineers and researchers, Thales has a unique capability to design, develop and deploy equipment, systems and services that meet the most complex security requirements. Thales has an exceptional international footprint, with operations around the world working with customers as local partners. [www.thalesgroup.com](http://www.thalesgroup.com)

Thales Australia is a trusted partner of the Australian Defence Force and is also present in commercial sectors ranging from air traffic management to security systems and services. Employing around 3,200 people in over 35 sites across the country, Thales Australia recorded revenues of more than AUD900 million in 2010.

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