

News Release

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The future of Air Traffic Management takes shape in Melbourne

Thales Australia is shaping the future of Air Traffic Management (ATM), with construction starting on a new research and development centre in Melbourne, Australia.

The Centre for Advanced Studies in ATM (CASIA) will be at the centre of the company's work on new ATM offerings for Australia and export markets around the world.

It will pioneer innovative solutions and explore new technologies that will directly contribute to making air travel safer, more efficient and greener, while delivering a host of other benefits to local and international Air Navigation Service Providers.

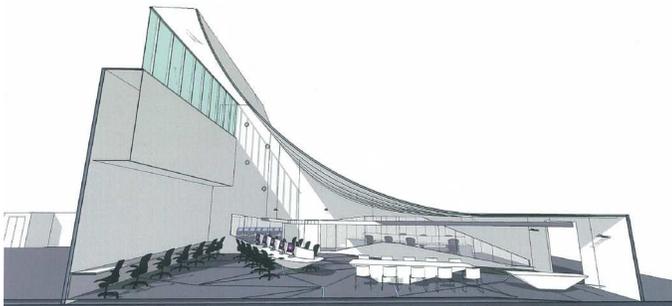
Chris Jenkins, Thales Australia's CEO, said CASIA represented the next chapter of ATM in Australia. "CASIA is the result of long term investment in our ATM business, which has grown from just a few employees 15 years ago to a global centre of excellence employing 400 people in highly skilled jobs.

"Thales Australia is ideally placed to offer local, regional and global customers the most innovative ATM solutions in the world today, building on our success with the Eurocat system and enabling effective airspace management in an era of increasing air traffic and technological complexity.

"CASIA has been made possible by significant financial support from the Victorian Government. I would like to thank them personally for their valuable ongoing commitment in growing our business and securing jobs in this advanced technology sector.

Beyond cutting edge R&D, CASIA will be available for use by Thales's customers, partners and suppliers, plus other ATM stakeholders such as airlines, airports and the military. The company will also strengthen its already strong ties with Victorian universities and other educational institutions through shared research initiatives.

CASIA will be located within Thales Australia's existing premises at Melbourne's World Trade Centre, and will begin operations early next year.



About Thales Air Traffic Management

Thales is world leader in ATM systems and civil radars, and has a 70% market share in the navigation aids market. Thales offers integrated gate-to-gate solutions, from pre-flight to landing, ensuring airport safety, efficient traffic handling operations, data sharing on aircraft and seamless handover operations between territories. There are more than 260 Eurocat centres, totalling some 4,000 controller positions in service throughout the world. Thales is involved in the key Single European Sky ATM Research (SESAR) program in Europe, in which it is the largest industrial contributor, as well as the NextGen program in the USA.

About Thales

Thales is a global technology leader for the Defence & Security and the Aerospace & Transport markets. In 2009, the company generated revenues of €12.9 billion (equivalent of AUD 22.7 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

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 3,500 people in over 35 sites across the country, Thales Australia recorded revenues of more than AUD1 billion in 2009.

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