

PRESS RELEASE

Malaysia To Overhaul ATR Propellers For Asia Pacific Operators

Kuala Lumpur, May 3rd, 2016 – U.S. company Aircraft Propeller Service (APS) has decided to partner with Malaysia Airlines Berhad (MAB) and make Malaysia the centre in Asia Pacific for overhaul and repair of turboprop propellers used on ATR aircraft.

The new venture between APS and MAB will be the first in Asia Pacific to do overhaul and repair of ATR propellers. The venture will be housed within MAB's MRO Centre of Excellence at Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA). This is a first for the Asia Pacific region, as the other propeller overhaul and repair facilities for ATR are located in Europe, North America and South America.

APS, based in Lake Zurich, Illinois in the U.S., recently secured licenses for the IATA I and IATA III regions from UTC Aerospace Systems, the original equipment-maker for ATR turboprop propellers. Daniel Colbert, President and CEO of APS, says ATR had approached UTC Aerospace Systems asking that MRO capability be established in Asia Pacific for the 568F propeller systems used on the ATR fleet.

UTC Aerospace Systems responded by granting APS a license last year to carry out such MRO work in Asia Pacific. "To support this license, APS has decided to partner with MAB to create a propeller MRO within MAB's MRO Center of Excellence at KLIA," says Colbert.

"Later this year, the shop will be fully capable of repairing the blades on the majority of ATR aircraft within the region, providing ATR operators with faster response times at lower logistics costs and smaller inventory stock levels."

He says the time is now right for such a facility to exist in Asia Pacific, "because in the course of the last five years, Asia-Pacific has seen massive growth in the number of ATR turboprop aircraft, particularly in Southeast Asia."

"APS is extremely happy with the decision to partner with MAB, because MAB has deep experience in MRO," says Colbert, adding that "prior to this agreement MAB already had some existing capability to perform blade repairs."

Colbert says he has also been impressed with the MAB team's ability "to start quickly – which is no easy feat considering all of the work involved in terms of training and getting the necessary tooling in place."

By partnering with MAB, APS has found a strong local partner with a good knowledge and understanding of the Asia Pacific business landscape and good relations with key aviation players in the region, he adds.

ATR is the world leader in turboprop aircraft. There are more than 370 ATR turboprop aircraft already operating within the Asia Pacific region.

About ATR:

Founded in 1981, ATR has become the world leader on the market for regional aircraft with 90 seats or less. Since its creation, ATR has sold over 1,500 aircraft. With over 28 million flight hours, ATR models equip the fleets of more than 200 airlines in nearly 100 countries. ATR is an equal partnership between two major European aeronautics players, the Airbus Group and Finmeccanica. Its head office is in Toulouse. ATR is ISO 14001 certified. For additional information, log on to <http://www.atr-aircraft.com>

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