

## Press Release

### ***GIFAS opens its regional office in Singapore***

**Singapore, February 4, 2026.** GIFAS, The French Aerospace Industries Association, is federating the French pavilion in 2026's edition of the Singapore Airshow, gathering some 30 companies representing the core of the French aerospace industry. This occasion also marks the opening of a GIFAS office based at Safran's regional headquarters in Singapore. The Southeast Asia French Aerospace Network (SEAFAN) will be headed by David Dufrenois, ASEAN Regional Delegate & CEO of Safran Singapore. Amine Chehri is appointed by the GIFAS as its regional co-ordinator.

#### **A dynamic Franco-Singapore collaboration**

GIFAS' decision to open its regional office in Singapore is a strategic decision, at a time when the Franco-Singapore relation enjoys an excellent level of cooperation at the highest political level.

Today, **30 GIFAS members, spanning the entire value chain** from OEMs and system integrators to Tier-1 suppliers, engineering services, digital solutions and logistics, are established in Singapore. They represent more than 4 000 direct jobs, accounting for 18% of the global aerospace workforce in Singapore.

French companies use Singapore not only as an operational base but also as **a strategic platform for addressing ASEAN and Asia-Pacific**, reinforcing the role of Singapore as a regional industrial and innovation leader, and contributing to Singapore trade surplus.

#### **A French industrial footprint to be developed in Southeast Asia**

The main objectives for this office will be to act as a bridge between French and Singaporean industrial players, using Singapore as a hub for a regional expansion, by:

- Identifying local needs and expectations in terms of partnerships,
- Supporting French companies willing to set either JVs or green fields in Singapore,
- Supporting both French and Singaporean companies on regulatory aspects,
- Organizing networking events.

#### **Towards an enhanced cooperation in civil and defence markets with local players**

GIFAS will work on building a joint roadmap with its local sister organization AAIS (Association of Aerospace Industries Singapore), covering both civilian and military markets.

**Regarding civil aviation**, considering the growth of air transportation, GIFAS aims to support the development of **maintenance, repair and operations (MRO)** in Singapore. In the path of the ICAO 2022 declaration to reach a carbon neutral aviation by 2050, France and Singapore have a key role to play to reach the target. The **production and use of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)**, alongside new aircraft designs and optimized traffic management, are the main priorities.

**Regarding the Defence industry**, beyond the existing partnership between French air forces and the acquisition of French equipment by the Singaporean MoD, the main axis of cooperation lies in innovation. French players have several joint labs with local entities. GIFAS, with its 100 startups and its legacy members, which reinvest an average of 9% of their turnover in R&D, will focus on **supporting enhanced cooperation in the field of innovation**.

With the development of a **new space economy** linked to multiple applications in the civilian and defence sectors, and a growing need for owning sovereign systems, GIFAS will work with its local partners to organize a fruitful match for the benefit of space players.

### Opportunities of cooperation in industrial capability and performance

Achieving the **ramp-up** in both civil and defence sectors requires **industrial capabilities** which give opportunities to new entrants. In the meantime, industry needs to increase the **global performance of the production** tool. To achieve this goal, GIFAS has created **Aero Excellence™ International**, an initiative focused on strengthening industrial performance across the global aerospace supply chain.

Aero Excellence promotes operational excellence through a common assessment framework with awards recognized by the aerospace community. Its objective is to enhance competitiveness and resilience of suppliers worldwide. Aero Excellence sees Singapore as a strategic partner with significant opportunities to collaborate. To date, 7 Singaporean suppliers have already joined the program.

### About GIFAS

*The French Aerospace Industries Association (GIFAS) is an industry body that brings together some 529 companies ranging from main prime contractors and system suppliers to SMEs and startups. They form a cohesive, hard-driving high-technology sector specializing in the design, development, construction, marketing and maintenance of all aeronautical and space programmes and equipment, both civilian and military planes and defence and security systems.*

*Members as of 8 January 2026: 17 aircraft and system manufacturers, 162 equipment suppliers (GEADS – Group of Aerospace, Defence and Space Equipment Manufacturers), 233 SMEs (AERO-SME Committee), 100 startups (StartAir), 16 associate members and 1 service company.*

*GIFAS, an industry whose 2024 sales amounted to €77.7bn, with 74% in civil aviation and 26% in defence. As the leading contributor to France's positive foreign trade balance, the sector generates 82% of its consolidated sales accounted for exports. It directly employs 222,000 people.*

*GIFAS relies on its five overseas offices to support its French members in their international development: Dubai, Montreal, New Delhi, Washington, DC, and more recently, Singapore. Each of these offices coordinates a regional network open to GIFAS members already established in the area or seeking to expand there. The association also organizes French pavilions at aerospace and space trade shows around the world. Every two years, it also sets up industrial missions to strengthen cooperation between France and other countries in the aerospace and space sectors.*

*Every two years, GIFAS organizes the Paris-Le Bourget International Air Show, the world's top event of its kind. The 56<sup>th</sup> Paris-Le Bourget Air Show will run from 14 to 20 June 2027.*

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