



## **SIA Engineering Company Wins US\$21 million Gulf Air Contract**

- **Under the agreement, SIAEC will maintain Gulf Air's  
17 Airbuses from 2008 to 2010**

**SINGAPORE, 19 February 2008:** Mainboard-listed SIA Engineering Company Limited (SIAEC) announced it has signed a 3-year contract for heavy maintenance work with Gulf Air valued at US\$21 million. The contract covers five Airbus A340, six Airbus A320 and six Airbus A330 from 2008 to 2010.

Mr William Tan, Chief Executive Officer of SIAEC said: "We are delighted that Gulf Air is signing a long-term maintenance agreement with us. Heavy maintenance checks require extensive component and engine overhaul support. Over the years, we have assiduously built up strategic joint ventures with engine and component manufacturers to develop a comprehensive cluster of OEM facilities at our Singapore base. With the close proximity of OEM support at our hangar facilities, coupled with SIAEC's dedication to on-time delivery and high standards, customers are able to achieve higher aircraft utilisation and fleet operating efficiencies."

Mr Björn Näf, Gulf Air's President and Chief Executive said: "SIAEC has a long history of excellence and dedication, and we believe they are the right choice in fulfilling our engineering needs to enhance our operation and our network. We are confident that this deal will further enhance Gulf Air's technical reliability and help our airline to achieve its goal of becoming the carrier of choice."

Established in 1950, Gulf Air has acquired a reputation for excellent services. The Airline currently operates a fleet of 25 Airbus aircraft and recently confirmed an order for 16 Boeing 787 Dreamliners (with an option for another 8). While SIAEC has been providing aircraft heavy maintenance services to several airlines in the Middle East, this is the first time Gulf Air has signed a long-term contract with SIAEC.

The transaction is not expected to have a material impact on the Company's financial performance in FY2007/08.

None of the Directors of the Company has any interest, direct or indirect, in the transaction.

## **About SIA Engineering Company**

(Company Registration No. 198201025C)

[www.siaec.com.sg](http://www.siaec.com.sg)

SIA Engineering Company (SIAEC) is a major provider of aircraft maintenance, repair, and overhaul services in Asia Pacific. The Company has a client base of more than 80 international carriers and aerospace equipment manufacturers. It provides line maintenance services at Singapore Changi Airport for more than 60 international carriers, as well as airframe and component overhaul on some of the most advanced and widely used commercial aircraft in the world. The Company achieved a revenue of S\$977 million in FY2006/2007.

20 joint ventures with original equipment manufacturers and strategic partners in Singapore, Australia, Ireland, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Philippines and Indonesia increase the depth and breadth of the Company's comprehensive service offerings. The combined revenue of SIAEC's joint ventures is approximately S\$2.4 billion in FY2006/2007, with 71 percent derived from airlines outside the Singapore Airlines Group.

SIAEC has approvals from 25 national aviation regulatory authorities to provide MRO services for aircraft registered in the U.S., Europe, and Japan, among others.

## **About Gulf Air**

Gulf Air was founded in 1950. Today, it is owned by the Kingdom of Bahrain, and is the only truly pan Gulf carrier in the region. The airline's network stretches from Europe to Asia and covers 40 cities in 26 countries. The current fleet of Gulf Air consists of 35 aircraft.

On January 17th Gulf Air Board of Directors confirmed the appointment of Björn Näf as the President and Chief Executive for Bahrain's national carrier.

Mr. Näf, who brings across the broad experience in aviation industry, has been instrumental in implementing the new revamped network launched on July 1 and is also the commander of a major alignment program to turnaround Gulf Air. The plan entails a simplified and more efficient organization structure; an improved network with lower connection times and better service to key destinations, better on-board product, better customer service on the ground and a better punctuality, which has been improving under his command.

The new network, based on a "wave" model, offers as many as 588 flights every week in the Middle East with more non-stop flights than any other airline.

The airline is also planning to re-fleet itself over the next five years to further strengthen its presence. It recently signed a deal worth nearly US \$ 6 billion with Boeing Co. to purchase up to 24 Boeing 787 aircraft.

The airline aims to become the carrier of choice.

Gulf Air's onboard service caters high quality products and services, including the innovative, unique and award winning Sky Chefs and Sky Nannies.

Some of the notable recognition include:

- Best Onboard Catering in First Class 2007 (Sky Trax Awards)
- Best Onboard Catering in First Class 2006 (Sky Trax Awards)
- Best Onboard Catering in Business Class 2006 (Sky Trax Awards)
- Best Business Airline 2006 (British Travel Awards)

Best Onboard Service 2006 (Gold) (Mercury Awards)  
Best Onboard Catering in First Class 2005 (Sky Trax Awards)  
Best Onboard Catering in Business Class 2005(Sky Trax Awards)  
Best designed in-flight magazine 2005 (American Creativity Awards)  
Middle East Leading First Class Airline 2005 (World Travel Awards)  
World's Leading Airport Lounge 2005 (World Travel Awards)  
Middle East region's best airport restaurant for its restaurant in Bahrain International Airport lounge 2005 (PAX International Readership Awards)  
Official Airline and Sponsor of the Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2008

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