BRIDGING SKIES

ISSUE 1

CAAS TO ADOPT ADS-B SYSTEM TO REAP INCREASED AIR NAVIGATION EFFICIENCY

As a major air hub, Singapore encounters its fair share of heavy air traffic daily. Having safe and reliable surveillance of air traffic is part and parcel of air traffic management. In the past, radars were the only form of surveillance. However, there are now new surveillance technologies that complement the radars, one of which is the Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B).

CAAS is implementing ADS-B capabilities by the end of 2011. ADS-B has inherent advantages over traditional radars. In particular, it has a higher update rate, thus giving a more accurate air traffic picture to air traffic controllers. At the regional level, the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) is encouraging States and air navigation services providers to collaborate in implementing the ADS-B, with the aim of widening surveillance coverage even over non-radar airspace where possible. This will not only increase air navigation efficiency, but also prepare Singapore and the region for increased traffic levels in the future.

Operationally, ADS-B is poised to contribute significant cost savings for both aircraft operators and airports. The ADS-B system is much less costly to install and maintain.

ADS-B does not have motors, and needs only a receiver and an antenna to operate.