

News Release

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Thales completes CASIA construction

Thales Australia has completed construction of the Centre for Advanced Studies in ATM (CASIA), a new Air Traffic Management research and development centre in Melbourne, Australia.

CASIA has been made possible by significant financial support from the Victorian Government, which has played an active role in helping Thales build its Australian ATM business over many years.

Chris Jenkins, Thales Australia's CEO, said CASIA represented the evolution of a hi-tech business that had delivered significant export successes.

"From small beginnings, we have expanded to become a global powerhouse that has delivered an advanced ATM system to Australia, and secured exports to over 50 countries around the world.

"This success demonstrates the benefits of long term investment, a commitment to building skills, and ongoing excellence in research and development.

"CASIA is the next chapter in this story, and we are very grateful to the Victorian Government for their close cooperation and support."

Victoria's Minister for Manufacturing, Exports and Trade, Richard Dalla-Riva, congratulated Thales for its investments in CASIA and its Victorian ATM business.

"This major investment by Thales underlines Victoria's position as the leading state for aviation, aerospace and defence, ensuring the company will continue to be one of our major exporters well into the future," he said.

"The Victorian Government is proud to be providing Thales with support for CASIA and the 5th Gen ATM project."

Located within the company's existing Melbourne premises, CASIA will pioneer innovative solutions to make air travel safer, more efficient and greener, and deliver numerous benefits to local and international Air Navigation Service Providers and militaries.

Thales's customers, partners and suppliers, plus other ATM stakeholders such as airlines, airports and the military, will also be able to make use of CASIA, along with Victorian universities and other educational institutions.

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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 23 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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