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More job opportunities for Singaporeans in aerospace industry

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SINGAPORE: Singapore's aerospace industry produced a total output of S\$8.7 billion last year - more than double the output a decade ago.

The industry accounts for nearly 20,000 jobs and a majority of them are skilled workers in areas like aerospace manufacturing, repair and overhaul, testing, as well as training, research and development.

It will also require over 6,300 new direct employees by 2015.

Speaking at the opening of the AeroSpace eXchange 2013 on Wednesday, Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry Lee Yi Shyan said the growth of the industry will create many job opportunities for Singaporeans.

Meanwhile, the Association of Aerospace Industries (Singapore) has signed three Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with industry associations to develop training programmes.

These organisations include BSI Group Singapore and VTOC "fokker" BV and educational institution German Institute of Science and Technology - TUMAsia.

Mr Lee noted that the National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University and Singapore Institute of Technology, as well as local polytechnics offer specialised courses in aerospace and will supply a pipeline of engineers and associate engineers for the industry.

For instance, a new 10.6 hectares ITE Campus - set to open by the end of this year - will house a Boeing 737 aircraft to offer aerospace students practical and hands-on training on aircraft maintenance.

Mr Lee said the industry has always been "amongst the most productive industrial sectors" and that the government will help industries switch to higher productivity.

"Looking ahead, productivity and innovation must continue to be key drivers of our growth. To help firms overcome manpower challenges, the newly-introduced Budget 2013 contains a number of programmes such as the Wage Credit Scheme, PIC and PIC Bonus, enhanced PACT and Corporate Income Tax rebate, to help our companies transit to a productivity-driven business model," he said.

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