



Aeronautical Society of South Africa

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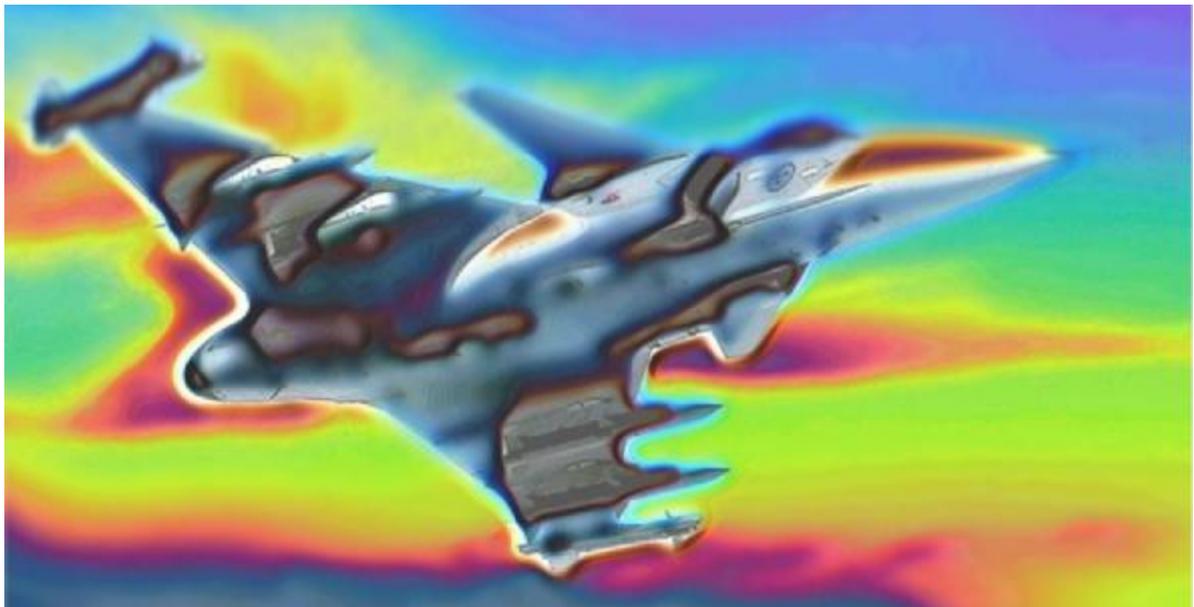


A Division of the Royal Aeronautical Society

AeSSA Newsletter –August 2007

EDITORIAL

Those of us who have been in the aerospace industry long enough (*take a look at all the grey heads in the Council photo!*) have seen the rise and fall of the industry's fortunes twice since the early 1970s. In those early days, Government expenditure on Defence and the need for self sufficiency were the driving forces behind the rapid growth of our industry so it may seem a little ironical that it was the massive expenditure on re-equipping the Defence Force that is at least partly responsible for the subsequent contraction of the local industry.



What has been lacking, until recently, has been a coherent and wide ranging policy framework within which a properly planned growth strategy could be implemented. The local companies that have succeeded in making their mark in international markets have been largely responsible for making the Government aware of the tremendous potential of our industry and can take some credit for the new focus of the DTI on the aerospace sector. The lecture which followed the AGM (see the report in this issue) gave us a good insight into this focus and, in particular, the role of the NACOE. With this new effort to co-ordinate the work of academia, research institutions and industry we can look forward to the end of the industry's see-saw past and to a steady growth in the future.

THE SOCIETY AGM

This years AGM, held at Grand Central Airport in the hope of attracting more of our Jo'burg members, was again attended by only a small proportion of our membership but with perhaps a handful more than the usual number. This was a great pity in view of the importance of the lecture which was part of the programme for the evening.

What was encouraging though, was the number of younger members, mostly students apparently, who were interested enough to attend and hopefully they found the lecture stimulating enough to make it worthwhile. They are the future of our academia, research institutions and industry, as well as the future of our society and the old'uns among us need to do everything we can to keep their enthusiasm alive.

Needless to say the organizers of the AGM rewarded those who made the effort to attend with an excellent finger supper to round off the evening.



Retiring President's Address

Prof Japie van Wyk reported in his usual relaxed informal style on the year's activities which included the following:

- Ø A relationship between the Flight Test Association of SA and the AeSSA has been established. The AeSSA attended their Conference before the AAD Exhibition in Cape Town. They presently have a representative at our Council meetings. One lecture was given by Gen Des Barker and we look forward to having more during the coming year.
- Ø The Divisional Conference held at RAeS in London went satisfactorily. The autonomy of the AeSSA with regard to grading, constitution and fees was addressed and there were no issues.
- Ø The requirement of a 32 GBP per member fee increase for the services provided by RAeS was again raised, but after explaining that our fees are in line with other SA Professional bodies and that our original understanding was that we would pay 60% of our membership fees for the services, no further pressure was put on the AeSSA.
- Ø The membership fees were increased by 10% this year, and a rebate was offered for early payment. There was no increase in the pensioners and students fees. For discussion in the New Year, a possible penalty for late payments may be introduced.
- Ø There was a lively lecture programme in the last year, and this trend should continue.
- Ø The AMTS and AeSSA have enjoyed a fruitful relationship during the year. Dr Parker has become a Council Member. The AeSSA stand at the Aerospace Symposium greatly benefited the Society.
- Ø The National Aerospace Centre of Excellence will hopefully become a Corporate Partner. Francois Denner will talk more about this matter.
- Ø The Corporate Partnership drive has been successful with a total of 8 Corporate Partners and room for growth. The Publishers of Air News are the newest members, whereby the members benefit by receiving monthly Airnews magazines.
- Ø Plans have started for an Aerospace Conference in 2008. Mr Corderley and Prof Meyer are looking after this portfolio.
- Ø The Sir Pierre van Ryneveld lecture was very successful and well attended with the Chief of the Airforce Gen. Gagliano providing thoughtful insights into the future of the Air Force.
- Ø CSIR and ICAS – meetings and conference to be funded by CSIR – thanks to John Monk.
- Ø A Bursary Scholarship was awarded to Shamiso Christine Mavingire. She was unfortunately unable to attend this evening, Dr Craig Law will hand over the cheque on behalf of the Society.
- Ø Student activities at various Universities are on the increase with many young Societies established.
- Ø Many improvements have been made to the AeSSA website, thanks to Iain McFadyen.
- Ø The Globalisation situation is a new development to be monitored closely to maximize the potential of our industry.

Prof van Wyk thanked the Council and Members for their support throughout the past year and wished the incoming President all the best for his term of office.

Induction of the Incoming President

The President Elect, Mr Rob Jonkers, was formally inducted and welcomed to the office by the retiring President. Rob then opened his induction address by thanking the retiring President and the AeSSA Council for their sterling efforts and contributions to the Society's activities during the past two years. He made special mention of the closer relationship that had been achieved with the RAeS and the progress made with the Corporate Partnership Programme.



Rob then outlined his objectives for the society during his term of office as follows:

- Ø Expand the Corporate Partnership scheme to get more companies and institutions on board, at the same time capitalising on the offered benefits of the current corporate partners for members.
- Ø Expand the membership base, in particular younger members and provide Society based functions and lectures to cover topical Aerospace subject matter on a regular basis, capitalising on the activities already held since a year ago.
- Ø Further explore alliance with other Societies and Organisations to capitalise on an expanded membership front - the Flight Test Society being one of the organisations that AeSSA has recently incorporated into mainstream Society activities. Other organisations would be AMTS and NACoE.
- Ø Look at strengthening collaboration with the CAA and other civil aviation organisations as this sector of the Aerospace community is not well represented but is a major contributor to Aerospace activities in SA.
- Ø Help facilitate members to register with ECSA as professionals in their fields and to forge closer ties with ECSA as the Aerospace representative body on their council.

Rob thanked the Council and members for their faith in him by electing him to stand for the next term and promised to strive to ensure that the Society remains relevant and successful in its objectives as the premier SA Aerospace representative body.

Election of Council Members

The retiring Council members had all agreed to stand for re-election, but since there were no new nominations an election was not necessary.

The following members will thus serve for the next term:

Prof A.J. van Wyk (F)	Mr G. Corderley (M)
Mr G. Jansen van Rensburg (M)	Mr K. King (M)
Mr C. Purnell (M)	Dr C. Law (M)
Dr R. Hurlin (M)	Dr A. Nelson (M)
Mr R Jonkers (M)	Prof J. Meyer (F)
Mr C. Butler (M)	Dr K. Parker (M)
Gen W. Thackwray (F)	Mr J. Monk (M)

After the AGM, Ron Powrie was co-opted to provide that all important liaison with the SAAF. The contact details and portfolios of these Council members are as follows:

Just in case anyone needs a reminder of what the Council members look like here is the current "Rogues Gallery" as present at the July meeting:



Standing – from left to right:

Dr Rob Hurlin; Ron Powrie; Colin Butler; Dr Craig Law; John Monk;
Dr Kamalluddien Parker; Gary Corderley

Seated – from left to right:

Keith King; Rob Jonkers (President); Prof Japie van Wyk.

AGM LECTURE

After the conclusion of the formal proceedings of the AGM we were privileged to be addressed by the Director of the recently established National Aerospace Centre of Excellence who explained exactly what this Centre's functions are and the Government initiative behind it.

Summarising his in-depth presentation would be a near impossible task but for those who were unable to be present and want to know what the NACOE is all about, Rob Jonkers has risen to the challenge and presented the following report:



Integrating the South African Aerospace Industry as part of Global Supply Chains

Francois Denner, Director of the National Aerospace Centre of Excellence (NACOE), gave an enlightening talk at the AeSSA's AGM on 29 May 2007 on the vision of the Government to broaden the Supply Chain around the South African Aerospace Industry into Global Markets.

Key to this vision are the initiatives being taken by the Department of Trade and Industry to develop the Aerospace Sector as well as the Advanced Manufacturing Sector. Projects that are being seen as key enablers to these initiatives are the A400M Programme, the establishment of the Centurion Aviation Village, and the establishment of the NACOE.

The NACOE's charter is to conduct high technology research, co-ordinate multi-disciplinary technology efforts between academia, research institutions and industry to gain the best solutions to tasks. To stimulate this charter, the NACOE has launched a number of projects, notably in Human Capital development and is sponsoring bursary schemes and an Aviation Challenge. The first call has also gone out for research papers, and an audit has started to assess the country's Space capabilities.

As a new organization supported by the Government, there is great confidence that the initiatives launched will be successful and will be the catalyst that South Africa really needs to stimulate the industry and at the same time to be globally competitive and relevant.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Council is hard at work on a programme of lectures and visits that promise to be both entertaining and informative. It is also an objective to provide more interesting functions for our younger members and potential members – hence the function in October focusing on model aircraft. The events for the remainder of this year have been confirmed and the dates to diarise are (note that the events will be publicized more comprehensively before the event takes place):

19 September

Flight Test Lecture on Hawk
Venue – Denel Aviation Hostel



27 October

Model A/C Flight Demo and lecture
Venue – Swartkops AFB



7 November

Major Miller Lecture – Open Skies
Policy in Africa
Venue - CSIR



AAD 2008

Aerospace Symposium

Aerospace Symposium being co-ordinated by the AeSSA to take place in Capetown August 2008

