

**Embargo until 1500 hrs 25 April 2010, Singapore.**

**Wigetworks makes history with the world's first Wing-in-Ground craft  
flying the Singapore flag**

A significant milestone has been achieved in Singapore's shipping history with the registration of the world's first Wing-In-Ground Effect (WIG) craft in the Singapore Registry of Ships.

Wigetworks Private Limited (WW), a Singapore registered company which owns the *M/V Airfish 8-001* WIG craft, has received acceptance from the Maritime Port Authority (MPA) of Singapore to register *M/V Airfish 8-001* as a Singapore-registered ship. *M/V Airfish 8-001* is the first WIG craft in the world that has been registered as a commercial vessel flying the Singapore flag.

"WW is proud to achieve this significant milestone in maritime transportation through the strong support of the MPA, Lloyd's Register and other government agencies and partners, involving several years of effort to meet all regulatory and legislative requirements which ensures that the craft is constructed and operated in accordance to IMO established guidelines, as well as with Lloyd's Register standards", said Mr. Kenneth Tan, General Manager, WW.

"Timely technical expertise and a firm commitment to support industry innovation have been two of our most enduring products in the 250 years since our inception. So it is fitting that Lloyd's Register was the classification society of choice for this revolutionary new WIG craft," said Mr Nigel Worsley, Lloyd's Register Asia's Senior Vice-President Southeast Asia Marine. "With globalisation putting pressure on the handling capacity of our sea and air ports, there is a need for safe, innovative, versatile, and affordable transport solutions. Wigetworks deserves a hearty well done

for unveiling today what they believe is an innovative answer to the travel challenges that Asia faces.”

"The Singapore Registry of Ships welcomes M/V *Airfish 8-001* into the registry, and this is a significant milestone for us", said Mr Cheong Keng Soon, Director (Shipping), MPA. "As the flag administration, MPA is committed to promoting quality shipping and we have been working closely with Wigetworks and Lloyd's Register to ensure that M/V *Airfish 8-001* complies with the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) international standards for such vessels."

M/V *Airfish 8-001* was christened today by Mrs Lam, wife of MPA CE Mr Lam Yi Young, after the launch of the 5<sup>th</sup> Singapore Maritime Week 2010

The christening of M/V *Airfish 8-001* also marks a significant milestone for WW to commercialise Wing-In-Ground Effect technology. With this registration, WW intends to commercially market WIG crafts similar to M/V *Airfish 8-001* and embark on serial production of WIG crafts for export to international markets.

WW's core business is to commercialise WIG technology to the world market (i.e. selling WIG vessels) and M/V *Airfish 8-001* (WIG prototype) will serve to showcase the technology.

WW is working closely with the Singapore Maritime Academy - Singapore Polytechnic and MPA in developing a training package for the WIG captains.

WW is also collaborating with the National University of Singapore and other research institutions to continue the development of the Airfish Technology to increase the carrying capacity of future WIG vessels.

"We are proud to partner Wigetworks in its continuing development of the Airfish Technology. This collaboration will enable NUS Engineering students in our Design-Centric Curriculum to acquire in-depth hands-on experience in applying fundamental engineering principles to actual complex products and large-scale challenges. Our vision is that such partnerships with industry will contribute to Singapore's technology

development, as well as nurture a pool of academics and professionals with the creativity and expertise to pioneer homegrown brands." said Professor Chan Eng Soon, Dean, NUS Faculty of Engineering

With the strong support from MPA and government agencies of Singapore for innovation and new entrepreneurial business ideas, being a Singaporean company, WW plans to establish a WIG assembly plant in Singapore in the following year. WW expects that the Singapore assembly facility will be in a position to assemble at least 30 WIG vessels annually for export during the steady state phase of operation.

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### **About Airfish 8 - 001**

*Airfish 8* is a Type A WIG craft with a unique reverse-delta wing configuration. It operates primarily in the ground-effect (GE) mode when it rides on a dynamically created cushion of air. It can also operate in the displacement mode (like a conventional ship) during take-off and landing, and during harbour movements like berthing and un-berthing, or as necessary.

*Airfish 8* operates under similar weather envelope just like any other high speed marine crafts and sea-planes, and is not designed for operation in high wind and high waves. *Airfish 8* has all the safety feature common in all high speed marine crafts.

When in GE mode, *Airfish 8* has a cruising speed of up to 90knots and flies up to 6m above the surface of water. As such, the *Airfish 8* offers high speed travel over water without the discomfort of motion sickness.

The *Airfish 8* design provides excellent flight stability and its' sponson-stabilised hull design ensures good stability in water and good manoeuvrability during flight in GE mode. With a turning radius of less than 500 metres in GE mode, *Airfish 8* is highly manoeuvrable and would have no problems operating together with other shipping.

Run by a powerful yet compact car engine that runs on 92 Octane automotive-grade gasoline, the *Airfish 8* provides good fuel efficiency and low operating cost when compared to existing high speed marine crafts and sea-planes.

In the event of an engine failure and/or other hardware failure, *Airfish 8* lands itself safely, quickly and automatically come to complete stop in less than 500m after landing, since the runway is always below.

*Airfish 8* has been certified to be in compliance with the requirements of Lloyd's Register Regulations and the Provisional Rules for the Classification of Wing In Ground Effect Craft and IMO MSC/Circ. 1054 – Interim Guidelines for Wing in Ground Craft.

The *Airfish 8* is also environmentally friendly as it does not discharge any ballast or cooling water, greatly reducing the risk of contamination and pollution. While in GE mode, the *Airfish 8* does not generate any wake, and thus would not contribute to erosion of shorelines, and the risk of collision with marine life is greatly minimised as it is not in contact with water.

### **About Wigetworks Pte Ltd**

Wigetworks Private Limited (Wigetworks) is incorporated in Singapore in April 2004 and owns the intellectual property and marketing rights for the *Airfish* family of WIG craft design.

Wigetworks has acquired all patents, intellectual property rights and know-how for the design and production of all *Airfish* types of WIG craft and also has the license and exclusive rights to market and distribute the *Airfish* Technology worldwide.

The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) have agreed that Type A WIG crafts are only covered by the maritime regulatory regime.

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