

Guest-of-Honor, Mr. Lam Yi Yong, Chief Executive of Maritime Port Authority of Singapore

Mrs Lam, our lady-sponsor for Airfish 8

Mr. Nigel Worsley, Senior Vice-President, Lloyd's Register Asia

Distinguished guests

Colleagues and friends

Ladies and gentlemen

Good afternoon

1. On behalf of Wigetworks, I thank you for taking your time to join us in this joyous and momentous moment in making maritime history - the christening of M/V Airfish 8-001 or AF8. The first wing-in-ground effect (WIG) vessel in the world that meets all regulatory and legislative requirements in accordance to International Maritime Organisations established guidelines, as well as with Lloyd's Register standards. Today, you can see that our AF8 is flying our Singapore flag, as AF8 is the first WIG officially registered as Singapore registered ship on 30th March 2010.

Significant Moment in Maritime History

2. On December 17, 1903, Wright brothers made their first controlled powered airplane flight that flew, only metres above ground, at a speed of only 10.9 km/h (or my jogging pace) for 37 metres. The sortie lasted for only a mere 12 seconds. I am certain that the Wright brother would not have

imagined that double-decked jet-liner capable of carrying more than 800 passenger trans-continentals would be possible 100 hundred years later, today.

3. Similar to Wright brothers' flight 100 years ago, Airfish 8 also cruises at metres above the earth/sea surface, commonly known as wing-in-ground effect by aviators. Unlike aircrafts, Airfish 8 is design to be aerodynamically stable and efficient using ground-effect phenomenon.
4. The christening of M/V Airfish 8 is a significant milestone for Wigetworks; Wigetworks is proud to achieve this milestone in maritime transportation through the strong support of the Maritime Port Authority of Singapore, Lloyds Register and other government agencies and partners, involving several years of effort to meet all regulatory and legislative requirements.
5. I believe today also marks a significant moment in maritime history, similar to the first powered flight made by the Wright brothers 100 years ago; that someday, maritime wing-in-ground effect transportation will be as popular as jet-liners.

Acknowledgements

6. I take this opportunity to thank the Singapore Government, particularly Maritime Port Authority, Economic Development Board and Pro-Enterprise Panel, as well as Lloyds Register for their support and willingness to venture

into unchartered territories to review and make necessary changes to embrace novel and new entrepreneur business ideas, such as wing-in-ground effect technology. Without which, we would not be able to gather here to celebrate this inaugural event.

7. I also thank Mrs Lam, who graciously accepts the responsibility of lady sponsor to M/V Airfish 8-001. Like the ancient lighthouse *Pharos of Alexandria* that guided mariners for centuries, our wing-in-ground effect (WIG) vessel, M/V Airfish 8-001, will show the way for many WIG vessels to come.
8. My heartfelt thanks to partners from tertiary institutions, namely National University of Singapore, Singapore Maritime Academy of Singapore Polytechnics, Ngee Ann Polytechnics for their understanding and collaborations. Special thank to SAF Yacht club for allowing M/V Airfish 8-001 to call it home for last few years and many years to come.
9. Last but not least, I thank all Wigetworks staff, past and present, for contributing tirelessly and passionately towards the realisation of Wigetworks vision in **redefining maritime transportation**. Families and friends for your understanding, encouragement and supports.
10. Thank you and God bless!

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