

**WELCOME SPEECH BY MR KENNETH TAN,
GENERAL MANAGER OF WIGETWORKS PTE LTD, AT THE
CHRISTENING CEREMONY OF M/V AIRFISH 8-001(1ST WING-IN-
GROUND EFFECT VESSEL REGISTERED AND FLYING THE
SINGAPORE FLAG), PROMENADE OF VIVOCITY, SINGAPORE
25TH APRIL 2010, 4.00 PM**

Airfish 8-001 – Redefining Maritime Transportation

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

Mrs Lam, our lady-sponsor for Airfish 8

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

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 IMO established guidelines, as well as with Lloyd's Register's standards. Today, you can see that our AF8 is flying our Singapore flag, as AF8 was 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 surface/ sea, commonly known as wing-in-ground effect by aviators. Unlike aircrafts, Airfish 8 is design to be aerodynamically stable and efficient in ground-effect.
4. The christening of M/V Airfish 8 is a significant milestone for Wigetworks; Wigetworks is proud to achieve this significant milestone in maritime transportation through the strong support of the Maritime Port Authority of Singapore
5. , Lloyd's Register and other government agencies and partners, involving several years of effort to meet all regulatory and legislative requirements.
6. 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

7. I take this opportunity to thank the Singapore Government, particularly Maritime Port Authority of Singapore, Economic Development Board and Pro-Enterprise Panel, as well as Lloyd's Register for their support and willingness to venture into uncharted territories to review and 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.

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