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23rd Joint Committee Meeting in Peking opens new horizons in German-Chinese aviation cooperation

5 October 2006

At the 23rd Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) in Peking, 25-26 September 2006, representatives of the German Aerospace Center (DLR) and the Chinese Aeronautical Establishment (CAE) discussed new possibilities for cooperation and the involvement of Chinese industrial organisations. Opportunities presented themselves especially in the development of the Chinese ARJ-21 regional jets. A meeting with leading representatives of the China Aviation Industry Corporation II (AVIC II) saw new basic conditions agreed upon for combined research in the area of rotary-wing aircraft.



Signing of Letter of Intent (LoI)

DLR was represented at the 23rd JCM by a delegation led by board member Prof. Dr Joachim Szodruch. In addition to DLR representatives, the delegation also included Dr Georg Eitelberg, Director of the German-Dutch Wind Tunnel Foundation (DNW). Prof. Szodruch was welcomed by the new president of the CAE, Prof. Zhang Xinguo. Prof. Zhang was previously Director of the Flight Automatic Control Research Institute (FACRI) in Xian. His predecessor at CAE, Prof. Yang Yuzhong, was thanked by Prof. Szodruch for his services to German-Chinese cooperation.

Since October 2005, there has been an expanded memorandum of understanding (MoU), which has existed for more than 26 years, between DLR and CAE aimed at furthering cooperation on both the German and Chinese sides in providing industrial components. As a result, the JCM discussed questions of cooperation in the development of the Chinese ARJ-21 regional jet, as well as current issues regarding the Airbus cooperation. CAE and the ARJ-21 development organisation, the First Aircraft Institute (FAI), located in Xian and Shanghai, foresee a need for further industrial research in the development and certification of the ARJ-21-700 and its subsequent prototype, the ARJ 21-900. This could also be provided with the support of the DLR. The discussions were continued at an operations level in Shanghai.

At the conclusion of discussions between CAE and FAI, the delegation visited the headquarters of the China Aviation Industry Corporation II (AVIC II) in Beijing. The visit led to the signing by Prof. Shi Jianzhong, Vice-President of AVIC II, and Prof. Szodruch of a letter of intent (LoI), thereby rounding off the negotiations with a framework agreement for cooperation on rotorcraft research between the China Helicopter Research and Development Institute (CHRD), the ONERA (Office National d'Etudes et de Recherches Aéropatiales) and DLR. Discussions continued at an operations level in Jingdezhen, the

headquarters of CHRDI. The aim was to agree on the initial steps in the practical implementation of the framework agreement.

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