



## **Thales announces Joint Venture to provide In-Flight Entertainment for the new C919 aircraft**

### ***Thales further increases its commitment to the Chinese aviation market***

**Zhuhai Air Show, China, November 16, 2010,** – Thales, a leader in In-Flight Entertainment (IFE) and connectivity systems, announced that it has signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (COMAC) and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with China Electronics Technology Avionics, (CETCA) whose parent company is China Electronics technology Corporation (CETC). These arrangements lay the groundwork for the creation of a joint venture company that will integrate the Thales IFE system in the cabin of COMAC's upcoming C919 aircraft. Designed and built in China, the 156-190 seat C919 will first take flight in 2014 with 2355 forecasted aircraft deliveries scheduled to begin in 2016.

The Thales system installed will be a scalable platform offering a modular entertainment experience which will include interactive audio solutions through to full in-seat on-demand services. Future evolutions of this system may include wireless networks and connectivity. *“The Thales system is the popular IFE solution flying today in China and we look forward to our technical teams coming together for a successful launch on the new C919 aircraft,”* said Alan Pellegrini, Managing Director for the Thales In-flight Entertainment business.

This new business relationship underscores Thales's position as a leading aerospace cabin and systems integrator and its commitment to the China market. Today, Thales airline customers in China include Air China, China Eastern Airlines, Hainan Airlines, Shanghai Airlines (now part of China Eastern) and Hong Kong Airlines. For these and other carriers, Thales continues to expand its product support capabilities in Beijing, establish nearby media distribution centers, and develop new partnerships with application developers. With COMAC and CETCA, Thales now demonstrates its ability to mobilize more resources and build relationships that provide immediate value to China and its local airlines.

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Mr. Zeng Li, Vice Chief Engineer of CETC stated “C919 program is just a start for a new round of cooperation of both parties. Now, China’s civil aviation industry is under fast development, on such background, CETCA believes that the Joint Venture of both parties and C919 program will make a success, and the strategic partnership will be further deepened and consolidated with the joint venture as the platform”.

“The global strength of Thales Group and our investment and growth strategy in partnership with CETCA and COMAC is a strong combination that can ultimately change the landscape of the civil aerospace marketplace in China. We fully expect that there will be strong demand for the C919 in China and we are proud to be part of this new market entry,” said Olivier Guibert, President Thales China and North Asia region.

## **About Thales**

Thales is a global technology leader for Defence & Security and Aerospace & Transport markets. In 2009, the company generated revenues of 12.9 billion euros with 68,000 employees in 50 countries. With its 22,500 engineers and researchers, Thales has a unique capability to design, develop and deploy equipment, systems and services that meet the most complex security requirements. Thales has an exceptional international footprint, with operations around the world working with customers as local partners.

In the In-flight entertainment market for over 10 years, Thales serves nearly 60 world airlines and maintains a strong global presence with offices in the United States, UK, France, Germany, Singapore, and China. For more information about Thales In-Flight Entertainment Systems visit [www.thales-ifs.com](http://www.thales-ifs.com).

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