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**Thales expands its state-of-the-art aerospace presence in Asia  
with a new facility to be built by Ascendas**

1. **28 April 2005, Singapore** – Thales, a leading supplier and service provider of aerospace equipment, has appointed business space solutions provider, Ascendas, to develop its latest expansion in Singapore at a new facility in Changi North Rise.
2. The new Thales facility will be Ascendas' 14th Build-to-Suit (BTS) project in Asia. Ascendas will own, develop and manage the property for Thales, which will fully occupy the facility as its sole tenant. The land is presently a vacant plot, and construction work is expected to commence immediately and be completed in nine-months.
3. Thales' new facility will spread over 6300 square meters and will host approximately 150 employees. Based in Singapore since 1993, the aerospace business of Thales in Asia offers a one-stop shop for marketing and sales, customer support, repairs and maintenance.
4. Ms Chong Siak Ching, President and CEO of Ascendas, said: "Ascendas is honoured to have Thales as our latest Build-to-Suit customer. More than a tenant, we regard Thales as a business partner under Ascendas' Build-to-Suit scheme, where Ascendas undertakes the investment in real estate, allowing Thales to free up capital resources for its core business. The company can then continue their focus on succeeding in their business, and be assured of a quality facility with operational efficiency from day one."

5. Thales delivers a full range of world class aerospace systems and its associated support services. It deploys in Singapore a full array of state of the art testing equipment, handles maintenance and repairs for most of its components, including all computers and display systems, for commercial jet, regional aircraft and helicopters. It has recently expanded to electrical and power generation equipment.
6. Mr Olivier Guibert, Managing Director of Thales Aerospace Division said, "With the increase of new Airlines customers in Asia, Thales needs to prepare for the support of these customers with a new maintenance centre and additional work force. Singapore has been our ideal location for our aerospace hub in Asia, especially with the strong support of our business efforts by the Singapore government."
7. Mr Manohar Khiatani, Director for Logistics & Transport Division of the Economic Development Board said, "Singapore already offers a wide spectrum of aerospace and aviation-related systems and services to the region. This expansion by Thales is a further boost to Singapore's position as a leading aviation hub."
8. This joint partnership is the first between Thales and Ascendas. This latest facility is Ascendas' second project in the aeronautical industry, following the current BTS of the Hamilton Sundstrand facility, expected to be completed later this year. Other completed BTS projects for industry leaders include Infineon, Exel, Friwo, Honeywell, INSEAD and NH Technoglass.

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#### **On Thales ([www.thalesgroup.com](http://www.thalesgroup.com))**

Thales is one of the world's largest professional electronics groups, serving the defence, aerospace and security markets. The group has consolidated revenues of €10.3 billion in 2004 and employs 61,500 people in almost 50 countries. The Thales Aerospace Division ranks first in Europe and third worldwide. Thales plays a pivotal role in many of today's most ambitious aviation programs: A380, 7E7, Rafale, A400M.

Since 1993, the aerospace business of Thales in Asia is the regional hub for the Asia Pacific Region. It offers all operators of Asia Pacific a one-stop-shop for marketing and sales, customer support, repairs and maintenance.

With the entry into service of the A380 in Asia Pacific region and the increase of new Airlines customers operating the IFE TopSeries equipment, Thales needs to prepare the support of these customers.

**On Ascendas ([www.ascendas.com](http://www.ascendas.com))**

Singapore-based Ascendas has a well-established track record as Asia's leading provider of total business space solutions. Ascendas has built a strong regional presence from over 30 years of serving a global clientele of more than 1,000 customers. It develops, manages and markets industrial space (manufacturing, logistics and distribution centres), suburban business space (business and science parks and high-tech facilities) and urban office/retail space.

Adding value at every stage, Ascendas customizes developments and bundles e-infrastructure as part of its seamless solutions to create "plug-and-play" business environments. Its flagships include Singapore Science Park, International Tech Park Bangalore and Ascendas-Xinsu in Suzhou Industrial Park. Its key regional markets include Singapore, China, India, the Philippines and South Korea.

For more information, please contact:

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