



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**John Holland Aviation Services Takes Off in Tullamarine  
--Acquires Ansett Aviation Engineering Services--**

**Melbourne 4 June 2007** – John Holland Aviation Services ('JHAS') announced today its acquisition of the Ansett Aviation Engineering Services business ('AAES') to become Australia's premier fully independent maintenance and repair and overhaul service provider ('MRO'), offering total aviation maintenance support across Australia and for the Asia Pacific Region.

Based in Victoria, JHAS combines the specialist contracting skills of the John Holland Group with the professional expertise of some of Australia's most experienced aviation engineers. The acquisition also includes key assets of Ansett Australia Ltd. (operating under administration since September 2001) to offer world-class facilities at Melbourne Airport.

JHAS will provide total engineering support to commercial airlines and third party operators from across Australia and the Asia Pacific Region. JHAS is also set to boost the defence aviation industry in Victoria by providing one of the largest and best military maintenance facilities in Australia.

In addition to full component and servicing capability for a wide range of passenger and military aircraft, JHAS provides aligned airport and specialist services to support airline operators in Melbourne, with satellite branches in most major Australian airports to provide line maintenance support.

John Holland Group Managing Director, David Stewart said, "The acquisition by John Holland Aviation Services marks the entry of the John Holland Group into the services sector and acknowledges Australia's excellence in aviation engineering. The business will make a valuable contribution to the diverse portfolio of specialist contracting divisions offered by the Group."

Importantly, JHAS will support local industry and preserve specialist skills by harnessing the strength of the existing AAES team and its relationships across the sector to win new maintenance contracts. As part of the acquisition, JHAS will retain local AAES management and

provide permanent opportunities for the casual AAES workforce, from a current workforce of 155.

Theo Theophanous, Minister for Industry and State Development, welcomed the project, which includes Victorian Government support for apprenticeship training to ensure John Holland's workforce is skilled to the level required by the global aviation industry.

"The project helps to ensure Victoria has an internationally competitive aircraft maintenance industry, which is strategically important for the nation's aviation sector," Mr Theophanous said. "John Holland Aviation Services adds a significant dimension to Victoria's capabilities in this sector."

Andrew Henderson, Director, John Holland Aviation Services said, "In an industry where safety and reliability are the priority and cost competitiveness is a major focus, John Holland Aviation Services will offer flexible maintenance and overhaul solutions for passenger, freight and military aircraft."

**Details of the services offered by John Holland Aviation Services, executive bios and photos are enclosed in the media kit. Please also see [www.jhas.com.au](http://www.jhas.com.au).**

**Media interviews are available with the following John Holland executives:**

David Stewart, Group Managing Director, John Holland

Andrew Henderson, Director, John Holland Aviation Services

Tracy Eiffe, General Manager, John Holland Aviation Services

**Site tours of the Tullamarine premises are also available upon request.**

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**Notes to Editors:**

The John Holland Group is one of Australia's largest and most diverse specialist contracting businesses, operating throughout each state and territory of Australia and combining national coverage with local knowledge.

Our capabilities range from tunnelling and underground mining through to power, water and high voltage transmission projects. We recognise that these capabilities revolve around our people and their ability to work in partnership with our clients to effectively deliver a range of projects.

Monday, 4 June 2007

## **NEW COMPANY SECURES JOBS FOR FORMER ANSETT WORKERS**

The future employment of former Ansett workers has been guaranteed thanks to a 500 job deal involving John Holland, Ansett Airlines' administrators and the Bracks Government.

Industry and State Development Minister Theo Theophanous today joined 157 former Ansett Aviation Engineering Services workers and John Holland management to launch the newly formed John Holland Aviation Services, which acquired Ansett Aviation Engineering Services in Tullamarine, in a deal which also took in its skilled employees.

“The creation of John Holland Aviation Services finally gives permanent, stable employment to former Ansett workers,” Mr Theophanous said.

Ansett Aviation Engineering Services had been under the control of Ansett Australia's administrators since the former airline's collapse in September 2001.

Since that time its employees, including some of the most experienced aviation engineers in the country, have been hoping for a new parent company like John Holland to offer them a lifeline.

“The company will grow to provide 500 jobs as it expands to become Australia's only independent maintenance, repair and overhaul centre providing maintenance for both domestic and international aircraft,” Mr Theophanous said.

Mr Theophanous said the Bracks Government had provided backing for apprenticeship training and assistance to ensure the acquisition was viable in the long term.

He said he was pleased the workers and the company had agreed to a flexible collective agreement instead of the Howard Government's controversial Australian Workplace Agreements.

Mr Theophanous said the launch of John Holland Aviation Services came on top of other good news for the local aviation sector, such as the decision by Tiger Airways to base its Australian headquarters in Melbourne and the start of flights by other new carriers such as Indian Airlines.

“The growth of Victoria's aviation sector is not just good for the local aviation industry itself – it's good for the whole economy, as it puts us in a stronger position to capitalise on our strengths and attract more tourists, boost trade and secure new investments,” he said.

“This deal is part of the \$19 billion worth of investments and the nearly 48,000 new jobs the Bracks Government has facilitated since coming to office in 1999.

“At the last election, the Bracks Government committed to making Victoria a great place to live, work, invest and raise a family – and today's announcement again shows how we are delivering on this commitment.”