



## **ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION DESIGN ORGANISATIONS (AADO) PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2019: MR MATTHEW BUTTLE**

The last year has been a year of great frustration in terms of the Association and its members with the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA). This trend seems to be consistent through the other Associations and although there have been some positives, the current situation seems no better than 5 years ago.

The EAP scheme as proposed by the SACAA is in full swing according the SACAA management. However the big mismatch between the requirements for high qualifications versus the proposed scope of authorisation is still present. The long period leading up to the finalisation of the EAP scheme has seen a few of our members close shop and the current failed uptake of this scheme to date shows an inherent problem with it in meeting the industry's needs.

With many complaints of poor service, one of the anticipated documents to be received by the SACAA this past year was a Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the SACAA and Industry. The document was received early in the year and was by all accounts pathetic. In terms of the work undertaken by Part 147 approved organisations, the following was given, a turnaround time of 3 months for Mod's and Repairs, 3 to 5 years on a Type Certificate Approval, an average of 8 months for a Supplemental Type Certificate and an average of 12 months on a Design Organisation Approval. This is all that was stated in the document relating to Part 147. A significant number of other procedures and detail is lacking from the SLA. This level of service is not acceptable to the industry and due to the complete lack of consultation in the formation of the SLA, it is not considered by this organisation to be an agreement of any type. A letter was written by the executive and submitted to the SACAA with no response to date.

Positives have however emerged in terms of the SACAA beginning to gain traction on a bi-lateral agreement with their counterparts in the USA, the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA). Communication and negotiations between the organisations has reached stage 5 of the FAA's outlined process. This puts South Africa in the technical assessment phase and this phase typically lasts 3 to 7 years. A request has been put forward to begin the same process with the European Union (EU). This has been to the Department of International Relations and Co-operation to begin the process, however South Africa's membership to the African Union (AU) has caused a delay as DIRCO is unsure whether we can approach the EU without having first obtain the AU's approval.

A new Association was formed in the manufacturing sector, the Commercial Aerospace Manufacturing Association of South Africa (CAMASA). This Association has been the driver of the bi-lateral agreements and have also been driving new engagements with the Joint Aerospace Steering Committee (JASC) and government departments. Their vision for the industry is long term and a sound one and AADO has been fortunate enough to have participated in their brochure as well as being represented in name at the Paris Airshow at a joint stand between CAMASA and the City of Tshwane.

Engagement has begun with the University of the Witwatersrand where by the Association has offered guest lectures to the university students as well as assisting with the placement of students for their vacation work modules in 2nd and 3rd year.

Our membership has stood with no loss of members within the year. However an identified problem at the beginning of the past 12 months was member participation and unfortunately this has not been addressed and remains an area of great concern.

Our affiliation with CAASA is still strong and only positives to this affiliation have been seen to date.

As President, I would once again like to thank my executive for their assistance and support over the year and making themselves available for committee meetings, meeting with the SACAA and meetings with CAASA.

I would like to thank all the members for their support in my third term. It has been an honour to be the President of the Association and to serve and represent you over the last 12 months and I wish all the best and success to the next elected president, the newly elected office bearers and the executive in their future term in office.

**MATTHEW BUTTLE**  
**PRESIDENT**