

**29 Jun 2004**

## **CAAS Awards Third Ground Handling Licence at Singapore Changi Airport**

The Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) has awarded the third ground-handling licence at Singapore Changi Airport to Zurich -based company, Swissport International Limited (Swissport).

Swissport will offer passenger handling services (eg. check-in), apron handling services (eg. baggage loading /unloading) and cargo handling services at Changi Airport. Swissport's ground handling licence is for 10 years, starting 2005. In awarding the third ground-handling licence, CAAS considered factors such as experience, track record and business plans and vision for the operations at Changi Airport.

Currently, there are two ground handling companies at Changi Airport, namely Singapore Airport Terminal Services (SATS) and Changi International Airport Services (CIAS). The introduction of a third ground handler at Changi Airport is to create more choices and increase competition so that airlines operating here can look forward to lower ground handling costs. In line with this objective, CAAS is also restructuring the franchise fees for the ground handling business at Changi, which will result in about S\$10 million in annual savings for the ground handlers.

Air passenger and airfreight traffic at Changi Airport have risen in the first five months of this year, compared to the January to May period of 2003 and 2002. In addition, Changi has added five new airlines to the network so far this year. In all, Changi is served by over 70 airlines that operate over 3420 scheduled weekly flights to about 160 cities in the world.

The tender for the third flight catering licence is currently being evaluated.