Recognising the importance of time- and cost-effective quality maintenance for the operational and economic performance of the Airbus fleet for its airline customers, Airbus has launched initiatives to apply the OEM’s aircraft manufacturing know-how to MRO operations in Asia and beyond.

Working on the application of new aircraft production technologies in the fields of robotics, drones, large scans, virtual and augmented reality, tools and parts tracking for MRO operations together with EDB as well as research partners and MROs in Singapore and abroad, Airbus is looking for low-hanging fruit and mid-term productivity leaps in maintenance automation and the smart utilisation of the big data delivered by modern Airbus aircraft.

The paper gives an insight into the progress of some Airbus applications and the bigger trends in the evolution of MRO operations as Airbus sees them.

Dr Wolfgang Kortas has worked within Airbus Group since 1991. During this time, he has performed different roles in Airbus Group Corporate and the Defence and Space Divisions. In 1998, Dr Kortas joined Airbus Helicopters in Marseille, France, to become Deputy Director Subsidiaries and later Head of Sales Customer Services before moving to Airbus Toulouse in 2003 to become Senior Director MRO Support and then Head of Services Integration in Airbus Customer Services. Dr Kortas has recently concluded a 2 years’ posting to Singapore as Chief Commercial Officer of HMS Services, a Joint Venture between SIA Engineering Company and Airbus. He is now back in Toulouse leading new service development projects related to Airbus’s business growth strategy. He is married with two children.