

## WA aviation company signs with Boeing

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**PERTH-based aircraft safety system developer Structural Monitoring Systems (SMS) said yesterday it had entered into an agreement with Boeing that would allow SMS to manufacture, certify, sell and distribute its cutting-edge airframe monitoring system to Boeing aircraft operators.**

SMS's product, Comparative Vacuum Monitoring (CVM), is a sophisticated system for monitoring the structural health of critically important components of equipment, such as the frames of aircraft.

The significance of the license agreement is that CVM technology can now be used for structural inspection requirements in Boeing commercial aircraft that had previously been difficult, time-consuming and costly.

Currently, Boeing and SMS are working on establishing the most suitable applications for CVM. SMS says the results of this program would be used to develop CVM installation kits, which would be evaluated by the industry and then rolled out onto Boeing aircraft.

"The signing of the this license agreement with Boeing enables access to the full range of Boeing intellectual property and support necessary to develop sensor applications, and provides the commercial framework for the sale of CVM sensors and systems to Boeing aircraft operators," SMS managing director Mark Velacott said.

In June 2005, SMS entered into an agreement with Airbus to enable CVM systems to be available for instalment in existing and new Airbus aircraft, and in May, the company was awarded a contract by the Pakistan Air Force to assist in the development of its FT5 jet trainers, Mirage-3 fighters and Hercules C-130 transport aircraft.

The CVM system was invented by an airline pilot in 1994, who in 1968 had been flying a Vickers Viscount the day before its starboard side wing catastrophically failed in flight, resulting in the loss of all on board. The cause was an undetected crack through the main wing spar.