

#### PRESS RELEASE FEBRUARY 2014

# AIRCLAIMS ANNOUNCES SENIOR PROMOTIONS AND RECRUITMENT PLANS IN ASIA PACIFIC

McLarens company Airclaims, one of the world's leading providers of survey and loss adjusting services to the global aviation industry, has promoted two long serving adjusters within its Asia Pacific region. And, the company will shortly embark on recruitment in the region due to a growing demand for services there, which includes offices in Singapore, Australia, New Zealand and India.

Kevin Betts takes on the role of Regional Director for Asia Pacific and Andy Pickford will stepup to become Director of the Singapore office. Both adjusters will continue to be based in Singapore. The promotions coincide with the retirement of Neil Smith and underline the aviation specialists' ongoing commitment to the region. The company's consistent growth in Asia Pacific over the past two decades includes a five-fold increase in headcount, and expansion to India.

**Kevin Betts** becomes Regional Director of Asia Pacific and will be responsible for operations in Singapore, Australia, New Zealand and India. Kevin joined Airclaims Singapore in 1998 and is experienced in handling all types of aviation hull losses, including: high profile major losses, complex engine claims, general aviation, helicopter, and light aircraft losses. He began his aviation career in the Royal Air Force and is a qualified and licensed aircraft engineer with a Diploma in Management Studies. He has also held technical, supervisory and management posts with Britannia Airways, Guinness Peat Aviation and Royal Brunei Airlines.

**Andy Pickford** is promoted to Director of the Singapore office after nearly 10 years at Airclaims. A licensed engineer and pilot, Andy also gained experience with the Royal Air Force where he was an engineer on large transport aircraft. He has worked in aircraft acceptance and maintenance for a number of major airlines.

**Neil Smith** retires after 23 years at Airclaims. Beginning his career as a flight test engineer, Neil was originally posted to Singapore in 1991 to grow Airclaims' Asia Pacific business, where he has worked closely with Kevin Betts for the past 16 years. In that time the business has grown five-fold and expanded into India, opening two offices, one in Bangalore and the other in Delhi.

**Kevin Betts, Regional Director, Asia Pacific, commented:** "Airclaims is seeing increasing demand for its services in the Asia Pacific region; it's an exciting time to be taking on this role. I'm also looking forward to continuing to work closely with Andy Pickford who has built

a strong reputation for Airclaims' APAC operations, both in Asia and also in the London insurance market, as a valued and trusted partner in managing and resolving claims. We are currently looking at recruitment to support the company's continued growth and success in the region."

**Nigel Minett, Managing Director, Airclaims, commented:** "Kevin is a natural successor to Neil Smith with whom he has worked closely over the past 16 years to get the Asia Pacific business to where it is today. We wish Neil all the best and thank him for his valued contribution. The company has enjoyed great success in Asia Pacific and that is in no small part due to his experience and the respect he holds within the marketplace."

#### **ENDS**

## **Notes to editors:**

Airclaims is one of the world's leading providers of survey and loss adjusting services to the global aviation industry, specialising in all types of aircraft, from helicopters and single-seater general aviation aircraft, to business jets and large airliners. Its clients include the aviation insurance market, aircraft operators, airports, Maintenance and Repair Organizations (MROs), financiers, lessors, oil and mining companies, law firms and regulators.

Airclaims is the world's biggest specialist aviation loss adjusting firm, both in terms of geographical reach and human resource. It has a team of 68 surveyors and adjusters and 6 aviation liability adjusters, operating across 23 offices in 16 countries. Moreover, as part of McLarens, Airclaims has access to a global network of loss adjusters that spans the Americas, EMEA and Asia Pacific.

All Airclaims surveyors and adjusters are licensed aviation engineers and many are also qualified pilots. Airclaims manages in excess of 2,600 insurance related assignments each year, nearly 50% of all aviation losses around the world. Airclaims also offers one of the most comprehensive independent asset management capabilities in the business, providing a broad range of services from expert advice during aircraft acquisition, through to a full aircraft portfolio management function, for lessors, banks, financiers and operators.

# **Airclaims Offices:**

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London – Abu Dhabi – Argentina – Bangalore – Brasilia – Delhi – Dublin – Houston –

Johannesburg – Kingston – Melbourne – Mexico City – Miami – Montreal – Moscow – Paris –

Sao Paulo – Seattle – Singapore – Sydney – Toronto – Vancouver – Wellington
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## **Airclaims Representatives:**

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Colombia – Chile – Ecuador – El Salvador – Guatemala – Honduras – Nicaragua – Peru –
Venezuela
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