



International Civil Aviation Organization  
Asia and Pacific Office

ICAO

## Eleventh Meeting of the Asia Pacific Accident Investigation Group (APAC-AIG/11)

(Singapore 16 - 17 August 2023)

### Agenda Item 4: Enhancing Accident Investigation Capabilities

#### ATSB STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH RMIT UNIVERSITY OFFERING QUALIFICATIONS IN TRANSPORT SAFETY INVESTIGATION

(Presented by Australia)

##### SUMMARY

This paper provides an **update** on the Australian Transport Safety Bureau's (ATSB) partnership with RMIT University to offer graduate qualifications and micro-credential courses in Transport Safety Investigation.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 As previously established, the Australian Transport Safety Bureau's (ATSB) strategic partnership with RMIT University was designed to offer graduate qualifications in Transport Safety Investigation. Over the past five years, approximately 100 industry personnel/students have subsequently gained the initial offering of the Graduate Certificate which consists of four bespoke units of competency being Investigation Readiness, Accident Investigation Fundamentals, Investigation Analysis and Analytical Writing Techniques and Human Factors for Investigators,.

1.2 With a renewed focus on the next five years, RMIT (over 2024) in conjunction with the ATSB will deliver the next level of the qualification being the Graduate Diploma. This program will offer another three bespoke units of competency accompanied by an RMIT elective unit, as follows:

- Advanced Accident Investigations – preparing students to investigate complex incident/accident scenarios across the aviation, rail and marine transport modes.
- Specialist Engineering Techniques – providing students a better understanding and appreciation of investigation techniques/applications used within the specialist disciplines of materials failure engineering and data recovery.
- Investigating Safety Management Systems – preparing students to investigate/analyse transport operators safety management systems to better determine organisational influences and potential safety actions.
- Choice of an elective – from a wide range of subjects/courses geared towards advanced engineering applications and/or research techniques. Including Intelligent Systems, Risk Management and Feasibility, Research Methods in Engineering, Advanced Transport Infrastructure, radar Systems and Applied Analytics.

1.3 Concurrently, RMIT, again in conjunction with ATSB and potentially the Defence Aviation Safety Authority, will be developing a suite of micro-credential courses designed to better cater to broader stakeholder needs. RMIT has received many approaches for niche bespoke courses to be developed and delivered both domestically and internationally. Examples include a 3-4 day course covering “on-site management and evidence collection” for Australian Police Coroner’s representatives, a 5 day package focusing on “marine investigation techniques” and a 2-3 day course on “investigation management”.

1.4 When developed, RMIT will determine which of these courses will qualify as micro-credentials (i.e. accredited) vs. non-accredited. The benefit being that accredited courses can be used towards gaining entrance/standing in the Graduate Certificate and Diploma program.

1.5 While the delivery of the Graduate Diploma and preparation of the micro-credential courses is a significant undertaking, RMIT is also working towards to establishing greater access to both physical and AR/VR crash laboratories to enable a richer learning environment for students.

## **2. DISCUSSION**

2.1 The RMIT/ATSB partnership has established a strong foundation over the past five years to the extent it has facilitated five Graduate Certificate programs resulting in approx. 100 graduates who have gained a formal qualification in Transport Safety Investigation.

2.2 Over the next five years, the partnership is committed to facilitating the Graduate Diploma program along with a suite of micro-credential offerings based on future client’s needs.

2.3 Moving forward, the partnership will turn its attention towards offering a Master’s level program over 2025. At this stage we anticipate this offering will be set around a research project/thesis complemented by another suite of bespoke/elective units of competency.

2.4 Ultimately, the vision of the partnership is to cater to the southern hemispheres needs for world-leading transport safety investigation qualifications and training.

## **3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The Meeting is invited to note the existing future offerings being provided through the RMIT/ATSB partnership in transport safety investigation and its vision to extend these offerings across Asia-Pacific region to enhance the quality of accident investigations.

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