Secondly, aerospace products are generally large, expensive and complicated capital investments which last many years when properly maintained. It is therefore not possible to measure demand for their service by the number of products sold as this would tend to fluctuate a lot from year to year.

Thirdly, technology in this area is changing very rapidly rendering a short life span for products.

Fourthly, product information and statistics are not readily available and are difficult to obtain.

In addition to the above, the study will not cover the aerospace sector which is linked to military and police activities because of its sensitive nature in terms of national security.

1.2 Historical Development in the Sector

Civil aviation in Thailand started after World War I when war surplus aircraft were adapted for transport of mail, and later passengers. In 1919 Thailand ratified the International Convention for Air Navigation marking the first step taken by Thailand to observe international regulations in civil aviation. The Minister of Defence at the time proposed the draft of the Air Navigation Act BE 2465 to the King who approved and proclaimed the Act effective from 26 August 1922 onwards.

As more and more international airlines flew into Thailand, civil air transport grew progressively. An airline called "The Aerial Transport of Siam Co Ltd" was established in May 1932 and granted a 25 year air transport concession.

Prior to the establishment of this airline, there was a government agency established in 1929 called "Air Transport Division" under the Office of the Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, which later was transferred to the Department of Transport under the Ministry of Communications and renamed "Air Transport Division" in 1941.

After World War II, Thailand, represented by MR Seni Pramoj, signed the Convention on International Civil Aviation or better known as "the Chicago Convention" on 7 December 1944.

In 1947, the first Thai airline was transfered from the Royal Thai Air Force to the Ministry of Communications which reestablished it as "Siamese Airways Co Ltd" (SAC) on March 1.