## SECTION 1.0 : THE AEROSPACE SECTOR IN THAILAND

### 1.1 Scope of the Aerospace Sector

According to the New Encyclopaedia Britannica, the aerospace industry is the complex of manufacturing concerns engaged in the production of flight vehicles, including unpowered gliders and sailplanes, lighter-than-air craft, ground effect machines, heavier-than-air craft of both fixed-wing and rotary-wing varieties, space-launch vehicles, and manned or unmanned spacecraft; propulsion systems and other thrusting devices; on-board equipment essential to the design purpose of the flight vehicle; and ground-based support equipment needed for the operation and maintenance of the flight vehicles.

Based on the above, the product line of the aerospace industry is a very broad one, because each of the primary products, such as flight vehicles, requires hundreds, thousands or in a few cases millions of systems, sub-systems, components and individual parts.

Except for the production of aircraft tyres, there is no known commercial production of goods linked to the aerospace industry in Thailand. Almost all the products and parts in the aerospace sector are imported from abroad.

Because there are numerous aerospace products depending on the definition utilized, it is not possible to cover a significant number of them. Furthermore, statistics and information of such products are not readily available in Thailand.

It is also an observation that the range of aerospace products in Thailand is likely to be limited due to the restrictions placed on the private sector.

The scope of the study will therefore concentrate on only a limited number of major products in the aviation sector. The focus will be on aircraft in addition to other indirect information which will help to indicate the size and growth of the aviation sector in Thailand.

In fact, the use of indirect information and statistics may be a better approach considering the various weaknesses of the product approach.

Firstly, aerospace products are not homogeneous as in the case of commodities. There are large differences in the product of each manufacturer. It is therefore not appropriate to simply measure market size for such products by adding up their numbers.