An aviation milestone was marked today with the first anniversary of scheduled airline service with the Airbus A380, which is flying around the world equipped with Aircelle's engine nacelles and electrical thrust reverser actuation systems.

Since the inauguration of Singapore Airlines’ A380 operations on October 25, 2007, the A380 has proven its capabilities in international service. More than 700,000 passengers have flown aboard this 21st century flagship – the world’s first full double-deck aircraft – which currently is serving four continents on seven major international routes. In addition to Singapore Airlines, the A380 also is now being operated by Emirates and Qantas.

According to Airbus calculations, the in-service A380 fleet has logged over 15,000 revenue flight hours in more than 1,600 commercial flights, demonstrating very high levels of in-service reliability. A total of nine aircraft have been delivered to date (six for Singapore Airlines, one to Qantas and two for Emirates), and Airbus currently holds orders and commitments for 202 A380s from 17 customers.

Aircelle is nacelle integrator and thrust reverser supplier for all A380s, which are offered with both the Rolls-Royce Trent 900 engines and Engine Alliance’s GP7200 powerplants.

A key feature of the A380 is its use of Aircelle's Electrical Thrust Reverser Actuation System – the first on a commercial jetliner. As the next-generation follow-on to older hydraulically-driven thrust reversers, the Electrical TRAS provides many key improvements for this critical aircraft system, including simplifying the thrust reverser’s design, reducing weight, increasing safety, streamlining equipment maintenance, and eliminating the need to use corrosive hydraulic fluid.

As part of its state-of-the-art technology, the Electrical TRAS uses electric motors and actuators, which replace the more complex and maintenance-intensive hydraulic systems found on traditional thrust reverser units.

The Aircelle A380 nacelles contribute to this jetliner’s markedly reduced noise levels on takeoff and landing – a significant operational advantage in today’s airport environment. The nacelles incorporate Aircelle’s 2-degree-of-freedom acoustic panels, which use a stack of two honeycomb sandwich panel layers that are separated by a porous wall. Each panel is designed to attenuate noise at different frequencies, further improving the soundproofing effect.

For its customer support of A380s in service, Aircelle has deployed specialists and technical representatives to locations around the world, providing assistance at both the home locations of operating airlines and at startup destination cities.