Dear representatives of BASTRI, NLR, DNW and Delft University of Technology, distinguished guests,

China and the Netherlands enjoy solid relations. Over time, we have intensified trade and investment between our countries. This has contributed to the growing wealth of our nations. Nowadays scientific collaboration plays an increasingly important role in our bilateral relations.

Today’s kick-off meeting is an important milestone and I congratulate all of you with your efforts to do joint aerospace research.

I am impressed by China’s ambition to develop its own aerospace industry. It is a clear testimony to China’s determination, ambition and ability to achieve anything it sets its mind to.

I recognize these same qualities in the Dutch aerospace industry since it has a long track-record of joint R&D collaboration with international partners.

The willingness to share knowledge allows all parties involved to achieve their strategic goals. This is a key point I would like to stress: the aerospace industry needs international R&D collaboration. Only then can we achieve significant technology breakthroughs.

Aircraft are among the most technically complex machines man has ever made. Today, we expect them to be not only safe and economical, but most of all environmentally friendly. We need technologies that make aircraft lighter and more fuel efficient.

So, the Chinese and Dutch aerospace industries and research infrastructures are embarking on an exciting scientific journey. It is a challenging mission that brings great responsibility to all parties involved.

It is my sincere hope that this journey will be long and fruitful. I also hope that other companies and academic institutes will join you along the way. We have much to learn from and contribute to each other.

Again, my congratulations to all of you. I wish you all to achieve success in the highly competitive aerospace industry.

Thank you.