Thanks to the initiative and hard work of a group of volunteers, Chinese translations of a number of AeroSafety World issues are now available on the Flight Safety Foundation Web site, and more will follow. To see the first four issues of ASW in Chinese, go to www.flightsafety.org/asw_chinese.html.

This nonprofit volunteer group, SaferSky Flight Safety Service Team, works independently of other organizations not only to maximize its freedom of action but also in recognition of the neutral nature of the most effective air safety work. The team is composed of members from the Chinese aviation community with a range of skills.

Their enthusiasm for the information found in AeroSafety World developed into this effort to share the publication with the large and quickly growing Chinese aviation industry in which English language skills are in early development.

Translating every word in a 64-page magazine and producing new layouts to fit the original space of the English version is a major challenge, especially when performed as a part-time activity by people with full-time jobs. When the team began, it did not translate every issue. However, “We have made up our minds to translate each issue after August 2008,” a team director says.

“Our team has a sense of mission and has decided to dedicate itself to the air safety cause,” the director added. “We are eager to support Flight Safety Foundation in its efforts to improve global air safety, so we will try our best to help the Foundation spread the information.”

Working with limited resources, the team makes a concerted effort to contain expenses while ensuring the quality of the translation. The team hopes that the Chinese ASW will be so successful that it will provide increased resources to dedicate to the job.

Indeed, the Chinese edition will increase the publication’s circulation, extending ASW’s reach around the globe to this new audience. This expansion potentially makes the publication a more appealing platform for advertising. Advertisements purchased for the dedicated Chinese issue may provide financial support for the team.

The Chinese edition initially will be available only via the Internet. However, should demand and financial support achieve critical mass, the team holds out the possibility that paper copies of the Chinese ASW can be printed and distributed.

It is hoped that the Chinese ASW project will provide the basis for a continued expansion of the SaferSky Flight Safety Service Team. Check out what other services the team offers on its website, www.safersky.cn.