

29 June 2010

Second MPL course takes-off in UK airspace

Oxford Aviation Academy (OAA) is pleased to announce the launch of a second MPL course in partnership with major UK airline Flybe. This new course commencing in November 2010 is being launched following the success of the inaugural MPL course - the first of its kind to be delivered in UK airspace.

The MPL course offered by both OAA and Flybe working in partnership is designed to produce well trained First Officers qualified for Q400 operations upon graduation. Following a joint OAA and Flybe selection process to be held at both Oxford and Exeter, 6 cadets will be selected to commence training for their MPL at Oxford on the 19th November.

Significantly, our MPL students will benefit from an airline sponsorship scheme under which Flybe will fund the Advanced Q400 type rating phase 4 of MPL training and also provide £19,800 in funding support to each student selected for the new course. This level of continuing support for ab initio pilot training in the current economy is most welcome and testament to the continued supportive and proactive approach adopted by Flybe. We are currently screening applications and competition for the maximum of 6 places available is expected to be high. The selection procedure will be based on a tailored version of the established OAA Skills Assessment process offered and managed by our Centre for Career Development based at Oxford Airport.

OAA also uniquely provides all full-time students (MPLFO and APPFO) with a money-back guarantee in the event of training failure at any point in the course. Additionally and specifically for MPL students, we are offering the further guarantee of a fully-funded OAA 'Safety Net' reversion to an APPFO Integrated ATPL training course in the very unlikely event that the MPL programme ceases for any reason.

We have incorporated a number of unique features into our MPL courses. These include the use of EFIS 'glass cockpit' C172 aircraft for Core Skills flight training and a combination of new generation EFIS 'GenJet' and OAA Group Q400 full flight simulator for the Basic and Intermediate phases of training respectively. The Q400 advanced phase of training will be delivered through the Flybe training team.

The continuing improvement in high-fidelity simulator technology allied with the ability to introduce multi-pilot procedures much earlier during training means we are able to provide Flybe with graduate pilots who will adapt seamlessly to life as a First Officer on Q400 turboprop aircraft.

Anthony Petteford, OAA's Managing Director for ab initio training said: "We are delighted to be launching our second MPL course this year. The launch of the second course and the further development of our positive partnership with Flybe validates this new training methodology and reinforces Oxford Aviation Academy's position as a leading international provider of dedicated MPL pilot training."

Captain Brian Watt, Flybe's Head of Crew Training added "This second MPL course demonstrates our confidence in both this innovative training framework and OAA. It is through this strong partnership that Flybe will reap the full benefits of MPL."

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About Oxford Aviation Academy (OAA)

OAA is one of the World's leading independent providers of: innovative airline pilot, cabin crew, maintenance training and aviation resourcing services. It is truly unique in its ability to offer a fully integrated global flight crew supply chain.

With locations in Beijing, Copenhagen, Dublin, Hong Kong, London (Gatwick), London (Heathrow), Manchester, Melbourne, Oslo, Oxford, Phoenix, Shannon, Stockholm and Tokyo, OAA is able to provide integrated "Total Training Solutions" tailored to meet the particular needs of any airline customer worldwide.

OAA operates: 105 training aircraft, 64 simulators and 10 training centres delivering an innovative and comprehensive portfolio of aviation training courses. OAA's 3 ab Initio airline pilot training schools are amongst the World's most respected and have trained over 26,000 professional pilots during the past 50 years.

Parc Aviation, OAA's resourcing division, is the global market leader in providing aviation personnel on lease to airlines, MRO's, aircraft manufacturers and aircraft leasing organisations; currently providing 1000 personnel on assignments to over 50 organisations in 30 different countries.

OAA is owned by STAR Capital Partners and the GE Corporation.

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