

1 September 2009, Oxford

## OXFORD AVIATION ACADEMY & GULF AVIATION ACADEMY SIGN AB-INITIO PILOT TRAINING AGREEMENT

Oxford Aviation Academy (“OAA”) this week signed an agreement to work in partnership with the newly formed Gulf Aviation Academy (“GAA”), to create a brand new airline pilot training capability in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

As part of the agreement, a first group of 20 students accepted onto GAA’s Cadet Pilot Training Programme will commence ab-initio training at Oxford in September on OAA’s prestigious APPFO course; they will undertake flight training at Oxford and at OAA’s training centres in Melbourne, Australia or Phoenix, USA. Up to 100 students will enter training during the course of the first year.

Under the partnership arrangement, OAA will assist GAA to establish a ground training facility in Bahrain able to meet the needs of the new cadet programme and to provide airlines throughout the Gulf region with an increasing range of training services.

Introducing the Agreement, Mr Talal Al Zain, CEO of Mumtalakat Holding Company (“Mumtalakat”), GAA’s parent company, stated: “GAA is establishing a high-quality training facility able, amongst other functions, to offer the highest standard of Ab-Initio training to student pilots embarking on an exciting new career path. We have chosen OAA as our partner based on its long-established and internationally recognised reputation for pilot training excellence.”

“With a ground training centre in Bahrain and Ab-Initio flight training in the UK, Australia and the USA, the two training academies will be able to offer airlines in Bahrain, the Gulf region, and internationally, quality aviation training and services at all levels and across a range of training needs,” continued Mr Al Zain.

At the signing ceremony in Bahrain. Anthony Petteford, the Managing Director of OAA’s Ab-Initio Training Division, said; “OAA is proud to be associated with this exciting new venture and is looking forward to a long relationship with GAA which will enhance the reputation of both organisations and enable Bahrain to become a leading centre in the field of professional aviation training.” He went on to state: “This new Agreement matches OAA’s overall strategy of aligning with high quality partners to develop airline pilot training opportunities worldwide.”

**ENDS**



**About Oxford Aviation Academy (OAA)**

OAA is the world's leading independent provider of pilot, cabin crew and maintenance training and aviation resourcing services. It is unique in its ability to offer the world's only fully integrated pilot supply chain. With locations in Beijing, Copenhagen, Dublin, Hong Kong, London (Gatwick), London (Heathrow), Manchester, Melbourne, Oslo, Oxford, Phoenix, Riga, Shannon, Stockholm and Tokyo, OAA is able to provide a "Total Solution" tailored to meet the particular needs of a customer.

OAA operates 49 simulators, has 8 Type Training Centres across Europe and Asia, and can provide a full range of training courses or simulator leases. OAA's Ab Initio pilot training schools are amongst the world's largest and have trained over 23,000 professional pilots over the last 45 years. Parc Aviation, OAA's resourcing division, is the global market leader in providing aviation personnel on lease to airlines and aviation support organisations, currently providing more than 800 personnel contracted to 50 airlines in 30 different countries.

OAA is owned by STAR Capital Partners and General Electric Corporation.

**About Gulf Aviation Academy (GAA)**

GAA, positioned as the future of commercial aviation training, is based in the Kingdom of Bahrain to serve the needs of airlines in the region and internationally. The academy, a fully owned subsidiary of Mumtalakat, offers a comprehensive range of training programmes for all aviation staff including pilots, cabin crew and ground staff. The training facility operates 24-hours a day, seven days a week with internationally qualified training staff.

**About Mumtalakat**

Mumtalakat is the investment company for Bahrain, and was established as an independent holding company for the Government of Bahrain's non-oil and gas assets. With 35 commercial enterprises within its portfolio, Mumtalakat's investment strategy seeks to enter into partnerships with local, regional and global institutions targeting opportunities for long term, sustainable returns. For more information on Mumtalakat please go to [www.bmhc.bh](http://www.bmhc.bh)

**For more information****OAA**

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