

Friday, 25 March 2011

Minister for Aviation inaugurates new airline pilot training facilities in Melbourne

Oxford Aviation Academy (OAA) Australia has greatly expanded its ab initio airline pilot training facilities at Moorabbin Airport, Melbourne by opening two additional, well-appointed and leading-edge training centres:

1. A new 1,200 sq m Australian headquarters / training centre providing an enhanced teaching capacity for an additional 200 students
2. An enhanced simulator training centre equipped with the latest generation Jet Simulator (approved for both MPL and MCC airline pilot training) as well as a new Cessna 172 Instrument flight training simulator; both with new-generation visual systems.

Opened today by both The Hon. Rich-Phillips MLC – Victoria’s Minister for the Aviation Industry and Captain Mark Rindfleish, Chief Pilot for Jetstar Airways, these state of the art training centres firmly establish OAA on the pilot training map in the Australasian region.

These new training facilities have been established to complement the existing OAA flight training centre at Moorabbin Airport to meet the significant growth in demand experienced for ab initio pilot training from both the Australian domestic markets as well as rapidly expanding export markets based in Asia-Pacific. With the addition of 6 new classrooms, student briefing rooms, self-study areas, library and support facilities, the ground training capability of OAA has effectively been doubled.

In terms of the simulator training centre, OAA is now able to offer advanced pilot training for: Multi-Crew Cooperation (MCC), Jet Operations (JOC), Multi-Crew Pilot’s Licence (MPL) courses.

Also included within these facilities, is a new Pilot Assessment and Selection Centre designed to assess the skills and capabilities of both aspiring and experienced airline pilots.

Already approved by the regulators: CASA (Australia), CAAV (Vietnam) and EASA (Europe), OAA Australia will receive further regulatory approvals from CAAS (Singapore) and Hong Kong CAD by mid 2011.

OAA Australia is already providing approved professional pilot training solutions at Moorabbin for: Qantas, QantasLink, Jetstar, Jetstar Asia, Iraqi Airways, Gulf Aviation Academy and Vietnam Airlines as well as all the flight and ground training elements of the Swinburne University of Technology (SUT) Bachelor Degree in Aviation incorporating the issue of a CASA CPL/IR.

To support these new facilities, OAA Australia operates a fleet of 44 EFIS training aircraft ranging from the high performance Kingair C90GTi through to the tried and tested training workhorse; the Cessna 172. The fleet is expected to expand by at least a further 10 aircraft over the next 3 years and potentially into a new Regional satellite in Victoria.

Anthony Petteford, OAA's Managing Director for ab initio training said: "Since OAA arrived in Australia in September 2008 (through the acquisition of General Flying Services) we have been delighted with our growth and achievement with our partners Swinburne University and the Qantas/Jetstar Group customers. With EASA regulatory approval secured in 2010 enabling both Gulf Aviation and Iraqi Airways students to train in Melbourne followed by Jetstar Asia as a new customer this month, we are delighted at how the markets have responded so positively to both our brand and training products. Our latest investments in new training centre facilities here at Moorabbin now enable OAA to expand significantly into new growth markets, earn new customers and create further export opportunities and employment within the State of Victoria."

ENDS

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: 102 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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