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CTC AVIATION GROUP CONTINUES ITS RAPID EXPANSION WITH A NEW TRAINING FACILITY IN NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand Prime Minister, Helen Clark, opens new centre that will enable CTC to meet growing demand from airline partners

New Zealand's Prime Minister, Helen Clark, today opened CTC Aviation Group's latest new training facility at Hamilton International Airport in New Zealand. The new centre is designed specifically for the implementation of initial licence training for airline cadets and will enable the company to meet growing demand from airlines for graduates of the CTC Wings programme. This is the second new training centre for CTC in nine months, following the opening last summer of the company's full flight simulator training facility in Nursling, in the UK.

The CTC Wings programme offers a comprehensive programme of vertically integrated developmental training for airline pilots. Wings graduates are now flying with easyJet, Thomas Cook Airlines, Monarch Airlines and Britannia and 80 Wings cadets are currently progressing through their training at CTC's Crew Training Centres in New Zealand and on the south coast in the UK, at Bournemouth, Nursling and Dibden.

The new Crew Training Centre at Hamilton is based on a prime 1.8 hectare site adjacent to the airport's main runway and represents an investment by CTC of NZ\$4 million. The 19,000 sq ft purpose-built training centre includes 10 briefing rooms, four large lecture rooms, crew room, two simulator cells, planning and operations facilities, management and administration offices. In addition, the centre houses training facilities for up to 30 instructors.

Cadets entering the CTC Wings programme start their training at Hamilton, with extensive ab-initio training that includes 285 flying hours – some 100 hours in excess of minimum JAA requirements. Wings training is tailored from the start to prepare cadets for a career as an airline pilot and the ab-initio phase includes 74 hours of multi-engine training and a significant focus on Line Oriented Flight Training when the trainees learn to fly short sectors as part of a crew.

With the opening of the Hamilton centre, CTC is also increasing the cadet intake to its CTC Wings programme from six to eight cadets per month. Chris Clarke, Chairman of CTC Aviation Group, explained: "Graduates from the CTC Wings programme are now actively demonstrating the quality of our rigorous selection and training processes and we are seeing growing demand for Wings pilots from our airline partners. By increasing the cadet entry to the CTC Wings programme, we will be able to supply high quality pilots in sufficient numbers to meet this demand. Our new base at Hamilton gives us state-of-the-art facilities through which to deliver the early phases of training, helping to ensure the continuing high standards of CTC's training provision.

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At the same time, these new facilities give us the flexibility to support delivery of the Multi-Pilot Licence when this is introduced in 2006.”

As well as delivering the first phase of the CTC Wings programme, the Hamilton Crew Training Centre will provide flight training for students studying for a Diploma in Aviation Studies at the Waikato Institute of Technology. Five students have already started training with CTC and the company will take up to 20 full time diploma students each year through selection, groundschool and flying training to CAA NZ approved standards.

Instructor training

The Hamilton site also incorporates CTC’s Instructor Training Centre, dedicated to the development of instructors to the highest level and so ensuring the quality of graduates from CTC pilot training programmes. The Centre is run by a team of experienced senior instructors and provides a two year professional development programme that results in an A-category instructor rating. As well as training new instructors and examiners, ITC staff pilots will conduct trainees’ flight tests and develop new training methods to ensure that CTC’s training remains at the forefront of industry best practice.

About CTC Aviation Group

CTC Aviation Group is a leading provider of training, consultancy and support services to the aviation industry. From its headquarters at Dibden Manor near Southampton, and Crew Training Centres in Nursling, Bournemouth and Hamilton, CTC Aviation Group trains over 1,000 commercial pilots each year. Airline customers include First Choice Airways, Britannia Airways, British Airways, bmi, Channel Express / Jet2, Cyprus Airways, easyJet, Kuwait Airways, Monarch Airlines, MyTravel, Royal Brunei Airlines, Thomas Cook Airlines and Thomsonfly. The company is seeing growing demand from its airline partners for its extensive range of pilot and cabin crew training courses and for consultancy advice and support for start up operations, fleet introductions, flight crew selection, training and crew leasing.

For more information, visit www.ctcaviation.com