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CTC ANNOUNCES NEW PILOT CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AND MAJOR NEW INVESTMENT IN PILOT TRAINING FACILITIES IN NEW ZEALAND

CTC Aviation Group, a leading provider of training, consultancy and support services to the aviation industry, today announces the launch of its new pilot training initiative, the **CTC Wings Programme**. The programme is a significant extension to the previously named CTC McAlpine Cadet Sponsorship Scheme, and its development follows the buy-out of the Joint Venture partner in this Scheme, McAlpine Aviation Training Ltd., which CTC completed in recent months.

The CTC Wings Programme combines the successful Cadet Scheme with CTC's highly regarded ATP Scheme, to provide cadets with a number of different routes into airline employment. Training opportunities are available for cadets without flying experience, some of whom will be pre-selected by one of CTC's airline partners, and also for already licensed pilots. The age limit for cadet applicants to the programme has also been extended to under 30 years old, something that has been much in demand since the Cadet Scheme was launched in 2002.

Chris Clarke, CEO of CTC Aviation Group, explains: "The launch of the CTC Wings Programme is driven by our desire to establish a one-stop, vertically integrated training system that will enable us to supply our airline clients with the best pilots. The success of our well-known ATP Scheme over the past 10 years means that we have established valuable and very close relationships with a wide range of client airlines – many of whom rely on us for the supply of their new, but less experienced, pilots. We now have a comprehensive training programme in place that will meet the needs of candidates with varying experience, enable us to attract high calibre new recruits into the industry and so help to prevent a serious shortage of well trained pilots in the future."

Investment in New Zealand

The CTC Wings Programme will now train up to 120 cadet pilots per year and, to facilitate this expansion, CTC has reached agreement with the New Zealand authorities to build a major new pilot training school, with maintenance and extensive ramp facilities, on a 1.6 hectare site at Hamilton International Airport.

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The new Training Centre will provide the latest state-of-the-art flight training facilities for commercial licence training. The 14,000 sq ft centre represents an investment by CTC in excess of NZ\$4 million and will result in the most comprehensive facilities for pilot training anywhere in New Zealand.

It is expected that the centre will be fully operational in the first quarter of 2005, equipped with modern classrooms, briefing facilities and simulators for Instrument training, together with ramp facilities for up to 22 aircraft. CTC is expecting delivery of the new Diamond DA42 diesel powered Twinstar within the next few months and has orders for eight aircraft over the next year. The single-engine training fleet will build towards 14 Diamond DA20s over the same period.

From its headquarters at Dibden Manor, near Southampton, and Crew Training Centres in Nursling, Bournemouth and New Zealand, CTC Aviation Group trains over 1,000 commercial pilots each year. Airline customers include First Choice, Holland Exel, Britannia Airways, British Airways, BMI, Channel Express/Jet 2, easyJet, Kuwait Airways, Monarch Airlines, My Travel, Royal Brunei Airlines, and Thomas Cook Airlines. 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. Last year, CTC secured a \$100 million, eight year training contract from easyJet – believed to be the largest contract ever awarded for commercial airline training.

For more information about CTC, [visit www.ctcaviation.com](http://www.ctcaviation.com)