



For Immediate release 26 May 2004

## **CTC ACQUIRES OPERATIONS OF McALPINE AVIATION TRAINING TO DELIVER FULLY INTEGRATED PILOT TRAINING**

*Extends simulator training provision with new state-of-the-art facility near Southampton*

CTC Aviation Group has acquired the operations of McAlpine Aviation Training (MAT), enabling the company to offer a fully integrated training system that takes pilots from initial training all the way to the right hand seat of a commercial aircraft. At the same time, the company is opening a new state-of-the-art Crew Training Centre at Nursling, near Southampton, to house three new full flight simulators.

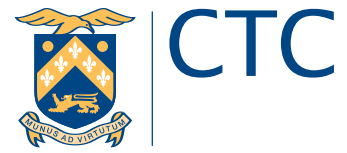
A leading provider of training, consultancy and support services to the aviation industry, CTC entered into a joint venture with MAT in 2002, with the formation of CTC McAlpine Ltd. The joint venture brought together organisations with deep expertise in initial licence training and type rating training and the CTC acquisition – for which the JV made provision – now merges these organisations under one management team.

The acquisition gives CTC full ownership of the CTC McAlpine Sponsored Cadet Scheme, launched in November 2002, and of MAT's operations in Bournemouth, in the UK, and at Ardmore Airfield and Hamilton Airport in New Zealand. These training centres will be re-branded as CTC Crew Training Centres and existing staff will transfer to CTC under TUPE regulations, retaining in full their existing employment terms.

Chris Clarke, Chairman and CEO of CTC Aviation Group, said: "This is a very exciting move for CTC and we are delighted to welcome our new employees in Bournemouth and New Zealand to the company. While McAlpine's support for our joint venture has been wholehearted, the acquisition gives us an un-missable opportunity to create a vertically integrated flight training organisation under single management. It enables us to ensure the supply of high quality young pilots into our ATP Scheme so that we can meet growing demand from our airline partners – and it supplements the rapid expansion of our existing training facilities in the UK."

As well as investing in additional training staff and resources, CTC is opening a new simulator training facility that the company believes will rival provision anywhere else in the UK. The Crew Training Centre at Nursling, which will be fully operational in August 2004, will house two full flight A320 simulators and a B737 full flight simulator that is capable of simulating three variants (300/400/500). CTC will also move its existing Boeing 737-300 and 737-700 simulators into the new facility, vacating its much smaller training centre at Marchwood.

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Chris Clarke explained: “Following our success last year in securing a US\$100 million pilot training contract from easyJet for Boeing 737 and Airbus A319 conversion training, we are also seeing increasing demand from other airlines. In addition, we are keen to ready ourselves for the introduction of the new multi-pilot licence in 2006 and the opportunities for growth we anticipate as a result of this initiative. The Nursling facility and the expansion of our training staff with further experienced Boeing and Airbus Training Captains will enable us to meet this demand while always maintaining the commitment to quality that lies at the heart of our success.”

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