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## MEDIA RELEASE

### REGIONAL EXPRESS ACQUIRES PILOT ACADEMY IN BALLARAT, VICTORIA

Regional Express (Rex) announces it has today finalised with ST Engineering the acquisition of its subsidiary Aviation Training Academy Australia Pty Ltd which owns ST Aerospace Academy (Australia) Pty Ltd (STAA(A)).

STAA(A), located at Ballarat, Victoria, is a pilot academy founded over 10 years ago to provide airline cadet pilot training for global carriers. STAA(A) has over 140 cadets currently under training.

In addition to being accredited by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority of Australia (CASA), STAA(A) is also accredited by the Civil Aviation Authority of China (CAAC) and the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS).

Some of STAA(A)'s current customers include Air China, Xiamen Airlines, Hainan Airlines and OK Airlines, as well as Scoot for the flight training component of its MPL programme. STAA(A) is authorised by the CAAC to train up to 168 cadets a year for Chinese carriers.

Mr Chris Hine, Executive Chairman of Rex's Australian Airline Pilot Academy (AAPA), based in Wagga Wagga, NSW, says that STAA(A) is an outstanding pilot academy with excellent standards which is why the Chinese authorities have accorded STAA(A) one of the largest annual training billets for a foreign academy.

"With this acquisition the Rex Group, which operates the biggest regional airline network in Australia, will draw on its expertise and experience at AAPA in training pilots to rigorous Airline standards to help STAA(A) stand out from all the other pilot academies that train commercial pilots to General Aviation standards."

"Airlines worldwide are looking for alternatives to training pilots in the United States for various reasons and Australia is at the top of the list as an alternative."

"We intend to leverage on our unique and unparalleled expertise to further expand our pilot training capabilities. We will look at opening further satellite bases in Australia to respond to the insatiable worldwide demand for professional pilots that are trained to rigorous airline standards. We have already identified one location and will consider more as we expand."

"The combined size of AAPA and STAA(A) makes the Rex Group one of the largest airline pilot training providers in Australia, and with our expansion plans the Rex Group will have one of the largest pilot academies in the world. We will be contributing to Australian exports as the vast majority of cadets will be from overseas, as well as creating jobs in regional cities that are in desperate need for economic revival due to the drought."



**Regional Express (Rex)** is Australia's largest independent regional airline operating a fleet of more than 50 Saab 340 aircraft on some 1,500 weekly flights to 60 destinations throughout all states in Australia. In addition to the regional airline Regional Express, the **Rex Group** comprises wholly owned subsidiaries **Pel-Air Aviation** (air freight, aeromedical and charter operator) and the pilot academies **Australian Airline Pilot Academy** and **STAA(A)**.

**ST Engineering** is a global technology, defence and engineering group specialising in the aerospace, electronics, land systems and marine sectors. The Group employs about 22,000 people across offices in Asia, the Americas, Europe and the Middle East, serving customers in the defence, government and commercial segments in more than 100 countries. With more than 500 smart city projects across 70 cities in its track record, the Group continues to help transform cities through its suite of Smart Mobility, Smart Security and Smart Environment solutions. Headquartered in Singapore, ST Engineering reported revenue of \$6.7b in FY2018 and it ranks among the largest companies listed on the Singapore Exchange. It is a component stock of the FTSE Straits Times Index, MSCI Singapore, SGX ESG Transparency Index and SGX ESG Leaders Index.

**Rex Media Contact: Corporate Communications: +61 402 438 361 [media@rex.com.au](mailto:media@rex.com.au)**

