

Jeppesen boost for Australian pilot training academy

Jeppesen, a Boeing subsidiary, has signed a contract with the Australian Airline Pilot Academy (AAPA) to provide pilot training services. The company, based in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, will train future airline pilots for Jeppesen's worldwide customers to the standard required for Australian and international commercial pilot licences.

AAPA is the first flight school signed under the Jeppesen flight training strategy. The strategy includes Jeppesen and Boeing Training & Flight Services partnering to provide a 'One Boeing' pilot training services approach to the market.

During the signing ceremony in Sydney, Jim Davis, AAPA chairman, said he was thrilled that a company with Jeppesen's global reputation and prestige had chosen AAPA as an Australian partner for pilot training.

Student pilots will be drawn from fast-growing aviation markets in China, India and the Middle East.

"We envisage more than 80 students a year coming to Australia to learn to fly," said Richard Low, general manager of Jeppesen Australia. "AAPA has a fantastic facility for students to complete their Commercial Pilots Licence and instrument ratings in order to transition to airline jets."

AAPA is owned by leading regional airline Rex (Regional Express). Rex is Australia's largest independent regional airline operating some 50 Saab 340 aircraft on 55,000 annual flights to 35 destinations throughout New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Queensland. Rex started its training facility after a 2007 pilot shortage meant its pilots grabbed higher-paying jobs with bigger competitors, forcing cancellation of many flights.



Executive chairman Lim Kim Hai, Chief Executive Jim Davis, GM Flight Operations Chris Hine and President of Boeing Australia & South Pacific, Ian Thomas, at the signing.