

17 DECEMBER 2019

MEDIA RELEASE

AAPA CELEBRATES GRADUATION OF REX AND VIETNAMESE CADETS

The Australian Airline Pilot Academy (AAPA), a wholly owned subsidiary of Regional Express (Rex), based in Wagga Wagga NSW, is today celebrating the graduation of the latest cohort of Rex Cadet graduates and a further three Vietnamese cadets.

The ceremony will be officiated by Guest of Honour, the Hon. Michael McCormack MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, and attended by various other distinguished guests from the aviation and local community.

Graduates at this ceremony are destined for Rex and Vietnamese carriers, and they will all receive a Commercial Pilots Licence with a multi-engine Instrument Rating. With this, they will also be accorded a Diploma in Aviation (Commercial Pilots Licence) and a Diploma in Aviation (Instrument Rating).

Rex commenced the unique Rex Pilot Cadet Program in December 2007 in an endeavour to combat a worldwide pilot shortage. Rex is the only Australian carrier to have invested in such a program and provide a meaningful contribution to solving the pilot shortage which continues to grip the aviation industry.

AAPA provides its cadets individual accommodation, fully catered dining and a swimming pool and gymnasium amongst other social and recreational facilities for complete and integrated live-in training.

AAPA is approved on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) and also as a Registered Training Organisation by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) to deliver tertiary-level qualifications. In addition to being accredited by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority of Australia (CASA), AAPA is also accredited by the Civil Aviation Administration of Vietnam (CAAV) and the General Civil Aviation Authority of the United Arab Emirates (GCAA).

In November, the Rex Group acquired ST Engineering's training academy based in Ballarat (STAA(A)) which is now renamed AAPA Victoria. AAPA Victoria provides airline cadet training for global carriers and is accredited by CASA, the Civil Aviation Authority of China (CAAC) and the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS), and is currently training 150 cadets from Air China, Hainan Airlines, Xiamen Airlines and OK Airlines, as well as Scoot from Singapore. The acquisition makes the Rex Group one of the largest pilot training providers in Australia.

AAPA Executive Chairman, Mr Chris Hine says the graduation is an exciting time for AAPA and the Rex Group.

"This is an opportunity for us to formally recognise and congratulate another group of cadets that have successfully completed the rigorous course of professional pilot training. It brings us all great pride to have turned these young adults, some of them fresh out of high school some 10 months ago, into fully qualified professional pilots who could be First Officers in a few months' time with a commercial airline."



Regional Express

“AAPA now has over a decade of experience and expertise, and the addition of AAPA Victoria brings great synergies and opportunities to build on that ability to provide professional airline pilot training to more airline partners around the world, bringing with it significant economic benefits to regional Australia.” Mr Hine added.

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

Rex Media Contact: Corporate Communications: +61 402 438 361 media@rex.com.au



16 December 2019

Establishment of additional Pilot Training Academy

Invitation for Expression of Interest

The Australian Airline Pilot Academy (AAPA) and the Rex Group is inviting interested Local councils and communities to respond to a request for Expression of Interest (EOI) in establishing an additional professional pilot training academy.

AAPA wishes to respond to the significant opportunities and increasing demand for pilot training, particularly from Asian carriers, including in China, Vietnam and Singapore and establish a further significant training base in regional Australia and as such is commencing a project to select the most suitable location for such expansion. AAPA currently has training facilities in Wagga Wagga NSW and Ballarat in Victoria.

Your Council is invited, if interested, to respond to the EOI and is requested to provide details of the benefits of AAPA establishing the new training base at your airport and community **by 31st January 2020** including but not limited to the provision of the information listed overleaf at **Appendix A**.

Responses should be sent to **companysecretary@rex.com.au**



Chris Hine
Executive Chairman

Australian Airline Pilot Academy Pty Ltd

Address of Academy
Don Kendell Drive
Wagga Wagga Airport
Forest Hill, NSW 2651
P +61 2 6926 7400
F +61 2 6926 7499

Postal Address
PO Box 91
Forest Hill, NSW 2651

Enquiries to rto@aapa.net.au
URL: www.aapa.net.au

ABN 79 128 392 469 ACN 128 392 469
RTO Code 91646 CRICOS Provider Code 03181K

Member of the **reX**. Group

Appendix A:
Establishment of a Pilot Training Academy - AAPA
Expression of Interest

Councils interested in responding to this request for EOI are requested to provide details of the benefits of AAPA establishing the new training base at their airport and community including, but not limited to, the provision of the following information;

1. Incentives available to AAPA/Rex Group for the development of the academy including;
 - a. Development assistance for the construction of a new training campus. The campus facilities required would be similar to what is present at our campus (www.aapa.net.au)
 - b. Landing charges
 - c. Existing leasing opportunities
 - d. Others
2. Land availability, both on and or nearby airport, for the development of an academy campus and accommodation complex for up to 200 students
3. Existing aerodrome detail and benefits to pilot training such as;
 - a) Runway configuration
 - b) Taxiway configuration
 - c) Aircraft apron/parking configuration
 - d) Navigation and instrument approach aids
 - e) Refueling facilities and services
4. Future aerodrome plans and benefits including in relation to any of the above
5. Aerodrome and surrounding airspace architecture and benefits to pilot training
6. Proximity to other airport and approach locations and benefits to navigational and instrument flight training
7. Existing traffic densities and conduciveness to pilot training
8. Weather details and data and conduciveness to flight training
9. Access to existing hangarage and or existing opportunities for development
10. Existing infrastructure such as airport training/administrative facilities and accommodation facilities that would support an initial operation prior to and during further development
11. Benefits of living in the community including shopping, recreation and medical services etc