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## **HAMILTON'S FOGGY REPUTATION A WINNER IN PILOT TRAINING RACE**

Hamilton's dream of becoming a major aviation hub takes a big step forward today, with the opening of a new \$4 million crew training centre at Hamilton International Airport today.

CEO, Captain Chris Clarke said the city can thank its foggy reputation, in part, for giving it the nod over other candidate cities in Australia, Canada and the UK.

"Hamilton offered us an unbeatable combination of local know-how, affordability, terrain, adjacent landing opportunities, and weather conditions that closely resemble the European climate.

"Cadets need to experience the widest variety of flying conditions – and that includes low visibility and fog! Of course, it was primarily the commercial factors that helped us settle on Hamilton – but the city's foggy reputation didn't put us off at all," said Captain Clarke.

Hamilton cadets are enrolled in the company's signature training programme, CTC Wings. Captain Clarke says graduates provide a key solution to help meet the growing global demand for airline pilots.

"The United Kingdom alone needs around 250 additional pilots each year to replace retirees and support average growth, while the total European Union market for pilot training requires around 5,000 additional pilots a year. Already, our industry is seeing signs that the number of applicants for pilot training is diminishing. The global airline industry faces the prospect of a pilot shortage in the near future and CTC is helping fill part of this demand," said Captain Clarke.

"CTC currently trains over 1,000 pilots each year at our three facilities in the UK on courses ranging from initial license training to the training of experienced airline captains in instructional and examining skills; however, we need to increase our graduate numbers in order to continue meeting clients' demands. The opening of our Hamilton facility allows us to increase our cadet intake into the CTC Wings programme from six to eight per month. We are currently training 80 cadets in Hamilton and aim to grow to around 120 per year," said Captain Clarke.

CTC Wings is a unique, comprehensive programme of developmental training for airline pilots that takes people with no flying experience all the way to the right hand seat of a commercial airliner in less than two years.

Wings cadets undergo nine months and 177 hours of training in Hamilton and then complete advanced instruction with six months and an additional 196 hours in the UK followed by an additional six months of line training and line experience with the airline. A fleet of 14 Piper, Cessna and Diamond aircraft are utilised at the Hamilton Crew Training Centre. An additional four, twin-engine aircraft operate out of the Crew Training Centre at Bournemouth in the UK.

Currently, cadets come solely from the UK into the CTC Wings programme. However, Rod Wren, Chief Operating Officer of CTC Aviation Training, says the Company intends to open the programme up to Kiwi cadets in the future.

“CTC has made a major investment in the Hamilton crew training centre. In fact our projections show us injecting approximately \$90 million into the local economy over the next 10 years. This investment is a testament to our commitment to servicing new and existing clients in the Australasian market. As we expand our client base in this region of the world, we intend to open up enrolment to cadets from throughout New Zealand and Australasia,” said Mr Wren.

As well as delivering the first phase of the CTC Wings programme, the Hamilton Crew Training Centre provides flight training for trainees studying for a Diploma in Aviation Studies at the Waikato Institute of Technology (Wintec). Six Wintec trainees are currently in the programme and the company will take up to 20 full time diploma students each year through selection, ground school and flying training to CAA NZ approved standards.

CTC Wings graduates are now flying with easyJet, Thomas Cook Airlines, Monarch Airlines, Britannia Airways, Thomsonfly, First Choice Airlines, Jet2, flybe. and MyTravel.

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