



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 9 MAY 2006



## **CTC AVIATION GROUP CHOOSES NEW ZEALAND-MADE ALPHA AIRCRAFT FOR FLEET UPGRADE**

In a multi-million dollar deal announced today, one of the world's leading airline pilot training organisations, CTC Aviation has entered into contracts for the supply of 26 aircraft from New Zealand's newest aircraft manufacturer, Alpha Aviation Limited.

The deal will see United Kingdom headquartered CTC purchase 12 aircraft immediately, with an option to procure a further 14 during the next few years. The Alpha aircraft will be used to supplement and upgrade CTC's New Zealand fleet located at the Crew Training Centre in Hamilton. Alpha Aviation will begin delivering the Alpha 160A aircraft in September.

For both companies, this latest development is indicative of the exponential growth currently being experienced within the aviation industry worldwide. The increase in the world jet fleet, coupled with an ageing pilot population, has created significant demands for additional pilots, and thus suitable training aircraft.

CTC has three United Kingdom training facilities, and CTC New Zealand operates from its rapidly expanding Hamilton Crew Training Centre. At present, the CTC Hamilton facility trains 120 airline cadet pilots each year through its "CTC Wings" programme. Increased airline demand will see this figure grow towards 200 within the next 12 months.

In making the announcement, CTC New Zealand Chairman, and Head of Training, Captain Steve Billett, said that finding the right aircraft to meet the needs of their business was paramount.

"Demand from our international airline partners for CTC trained pilots is unprecedented and we have to be able to meet those demands without compromise. This entails expanding our programmes to recruit more cadets and simultaneously increasing and upgrading our fleet of training aircraft.

"Over a period of months, we conducted an exhaustive competitive analysis of the training aircraft options available to us. In the end, the decision was relatively easy; the Alpha 160A training aircraft met our requirements on every level.

"When looking at training aircraft; build quality, robustness and operational flexibility are critical factors. The Alpha 160A amply meets these key requirements and in addition, our evaluation of its handling properties and performance indicate it's the ideal platform from which to teach embryonic airline pilots. Our instructors will welcome the visibility and comfort of the cabin, the enhanced equipment levels and training environment that the cockpit brings with its advanced layout.

"These are all factors to be considered when looking at optimising the training value of this aircraft. In pure training terms, the Alpha 160A represents the best training tool and is ideally suited for our rapidly expanding New Zealand operation," Captain Billett says.

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Alpha Aviation Managing Director, Richard Sealy is delighted with this latest contract – the single biggest order of Alpha aircraft to date.

“We couldn’t be happier that CTC have recognised the outstanding attributes of our aircraft. We are a comparatively small player when considering the likes of Cessna, Piper and Diamond. Therefore, CTC’s decision to purchase Alpha aircraft to upgrade and expand their fleet endorses our long-held belief that the Alpha will be of significant interest to major international flight training organisations.

“The first New Zealand manufactured Alpha 160A came off the production line just three weeks ago. With this latest order, we now have 21 firm orders in place, we’re in the final stages of negotiation on a further 10 and CTC’s options for a further 14 aircraft mean our production schedule is now booked solid until late 2007. The future couldn’t be brighter,” Mr Sealy says.

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For more information, visit [www.ctcaviation.com](http://www.ctcaviation.com) and [www.alphaaviation.co.nz](http://www.alphaaviation.co.nz)

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