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EASYJET AND JMC TO SPONSOR NEW PILOT CADET SCHEME

CTC and M°Alpine in joint venture to offer innovative, fully funded pilot training

easyJet and JMC Airlines are the first UK airlines to sign up as sponsors for a new pilot cadet scheme, announced today. The scheme is run by CTC M°Alpine, a new joint venture between CTC Aviation Group and M°Alpine Aviation Training, and offers a fast track to the right hand seat of a commercial airliner. The fully funded scheme is designed to provide pilot cadets with the best opportunities for a career in commercial aviation.

CTC M°Alpine will guarantee the quality of its graduates to its airline customers and places on the scheme will only be available to those applicants who have passed a stringent selection procedure.

Vilhelm Hahn-Peterson, Operations Director for easyJet, who are a major launch customer and have been involved from the outset, comments: "easyJet is committed to attracting and developing the best pilots of the future to ensure the continued successful growth of the airline. This scheme enables exceptional candidates, who may otherwise be put off by the costs of entry, to fulfil their career ambition. This can only be good for the industry going forward and is a piece of good news for a sector which has not received additional employment investment since September 11th. Our commitment to this important new career development opportunity for pilots leads the way – we hope others will follow in our footsteps."

Commenting on the partnership between JMC Airlines and CTC M°Alpine, Director of Flight Operations at JMC, Capt. Donal Foley said: "There are around 14,000 qualified commercial pilots operating in the UK at present. Within the next few years, a substantial number of these will retire during a period of anticipated industry growth. Our association with the cadet sponsorship scheme will secure future entrants to the right hand seat of JMC aircraft."

The CTC M^cAlpine Sponsored Cadet Scheme is a comprehensive 'one-stop' development programme, covering basic, intermediate and advanced training (including type conversion training and line experience), to take pilots to the point where they are ready to join an airline's flight crew. The innovative scheme has been developed in close discussion with UK airlines and differs from other schemes in a number of ways. It provides substantially more training time than other courses - nearly 30% more than the minimum recommended by JAR –and includes 50% more multi-engine time. The training philosophy also differs – pilots on the CTC M^cAlpine scheme are trained as airline pilots from the start, with a unique focus on the development of IFR capabilities and the cerebral skills required on the flight deck. Bristol Groundschool and Simuflight NZ Ltd. will be providing key elements and co-operating in delivery of the course.

Innovative financing arrangements underpin the scheme, ensuring that young people who could become the finest commercial pilots are not prevented from doing so by the high cost of learning to fly. Cadets will be sponsored by CTC M^cAlpine during basic and intermediate training. During this period, they are bonded to CTC M^cAlpine but a low cost unsecured loan facility is available to finance this bond. During advanced training, cadets will be sponsored directly by an airline and the training costs and bond will then be transferred to the airline on employment. The bond will be repaid to cadet entrants during the early years of their employment. Therefore, cadets who fulfil their contract obligations will not have to pay for any of their training although, in recognition of airline sponsorship, these pilots will be on a cadet entry salary during the early years of their employment.

Chris Clarke, Chairman of CTC M^cAlpine, comments: "We have worked hard to come up with a cadet scheme that is open to anyone with the aptitude, skills and temperament to make a fine commercial pilot. Selection will be tough but we believe our pilots will have among the best career prospects of any entrants into the profession."

For further information on the CTC M^cAlpine Sponsored Cadet Scheme, visit www.ctc-mcalpine.com

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