

**MEDIA RELEASE: 18 April 2008**

## **PILOT SHORTAGE LOOMING, BUT INTEREST IN BECOMING AN AIRLINE PILOT SOARS**

Reporting on a recent Pilot Resource Forum hosted by CTC, at which the senior management of many of the UK airlines were in attendance, the Founder and Chairman of CTC, Capt Chris Clarke, noted that the anticipated requirement for new pilots to enter the airline industry over the next year was at an all time high and, according to the expectations of the airlines present at the Forum, is expected to be in excess of 1800 .

Capt Clarke says “ Major operators in the UK and Europe are entering another period of significant growth and the requirement for new pilots in the UK is certainly going to exceed the capacity of the UK Ab Initio training industry. By this time next year we expect to see the signs of a pilot shortage arising and a general increase in the number of pilots being sought from abroad. Unfortunately this same scenario is also arising in the Middle East, Asia and Australia and, as we know, is already prevalent in China and India. The possibility exists that quite a few airliners across the globe may be grounded without crews in the next few years”.

On the plus side, CTC reports that its innovative CTC Wings sponsorship programme was receiving applications at an ever increasing rate, and that in the first 10 weeks of 2008 the application numbers demonstrated a run rate of over 10,000 per annum. The actual applications received last year were just over 5,000.

Capt Clarke continued, “...In recent years all of us in the industry have been concerned at an apparently fading interest in the career by young men and women, and CTC has been undertaking a great deal of work presenting the airline pilot career to Universities, schools and at career fairs; there is no doubt that this awareness campaign has elicited a groundswell of renewed interest in the pilot career. I am confident that the interest will continue, but the very high costs of training and the lack of any tax relief or UK government supported loan schemes places a barrier in front of many keen and enthusiastic young men and women whom we would love to see fulfil their ambitions.”

” Bearing in mind that there is an 18 month lead time required to produce a qualified First Officer, the lack of any commitment by some airlines to support their future pilot supply requirements through sponsorship remains a significant hurdle for new entrants to overcome. Those that do will clearly benefit during the interesting times ahead, those that don’t, well...there may be a sting in the tail.”

**ENDS**

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## About CTC Aviation Group plc

CTC Aviation Group plc is an approved Type Rating Training Organisation (TRTO) and Approved Flight Training Organisation (FTO), recognised by the Joint Aviation Authorities as a leading provider of training, consultancy and support services to the commercial airline industry.

Established to provide a dedicated facility for airline standard, professional training, the Company offers a comprehensive range of training and consultancy services that can be tailored to individual and airline requirements.

Through four Crew Training Centres in the UK and New Zealand CTC trained over 1,200 commercial pilots in 2007 for 52 airlines worldwide. CTC's Crew Training Centres house state-of-the-art training facilities including the provision of high-level training support and full flight simulation for both Boeing and Airbus aircraft.

Airline customers include Air New Zealand, Air Malawi, Air Seychelles, British Airways, Jet2.com, easyJet, EuroCypria, ThomsonFly/First Choice Airways, Kuwait Airways, Monarch Airlines, NetJets, Royal Brunei Airlines, Thomas Cook Airlines/MyTravel, DHL, Pacific Airlines, the UK CAA and Virgin Atlantic

CTC was established to provide a dedicated facility for airline standard professional training. The company offers a comprehensive range of training and consultancy services that can be tailored to individual airline requirements.

CTC's training portfolio includes courses for pilots and cabin crew at every stage of their careers (such as the unique "CTC Wings" programme). In addition CTC provides train the trainer courses and crew resource management training. Consultancy services include crew selection, training staff assessments, line support, recurrent training provision, fleet introductions and full management and operational support for airline start-ups.

*CTC Wings* is a unique and comprehensive, global programme of developmental training for aspiring airline pilots. During 2008 approximately 200 cadet pilots will be selected to commence training with CTC Wings and the airline employment record for CTC Wings pilots currently stands at 100%.

In November 2007 CTC launched a new executive jet operation – CTC Aviation Jet Services Limited. Based at CTC's Executive Jet Centre – Bournemouth, this division provides a 'turn key' service to corporate clients.

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