



Photo courtesy of The Daily Advertiser, Wagga Wagga.

Breaking New Frontiers

The Australian Airline Pilot Academy (AAPA), a subsidiary of Regional Express, together with Alpha Aviation Group UAE (AAG UAE), a joint-venture company of Alpha Aviation Group and Air Arabia, commenced the training of the first United Arab Emirates (UAE) cadet pilot intake on the flying component of the new ICAO Multi-Crew Pilot Licence (MPL) on 8 August 2011. The cadet pilots are being trained for Air Arabia, the first and largest low-cost carrier in the Middle East and North Africa.

Prior to the commencement of the training, AAPA, working together with AAG UAE and the wider AAG, underwent an extensive audit by the General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) of the UAE in order to be accredited to deliver the MPL flight training for UAE cadets. All instructors at AAPA are now qualified to deliver the MPL flight training for UAE cadets.

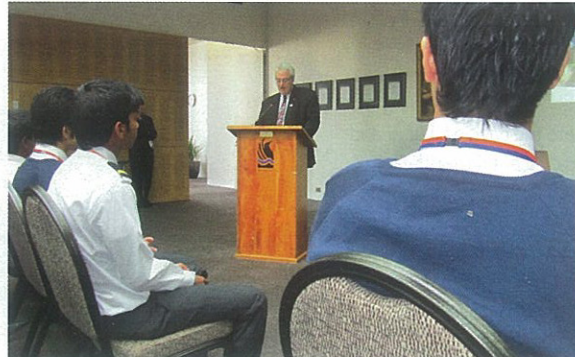
AAPA Chairman Chris Hine said, "We are both excited and honoured to be embarking on the new MPL program on behalf of AAG and warmly welcome the first intake of Air Arabia cadet pilots to our academy. We are proud to

be among the very few pilot academies around the world that could deliver this new MPL programme, which is also recognised by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority of Australia."

AAG Chief Operating Officer Patrick Lai said, "We, together with AAG UAE, are very happy working with AAPA in supporting our MPL cadets in the flying component of the training curriculum in Wagga Wagga. The AAPA training facility and resources are top-notch and are able to meet the very stringent requirements of the GCAA and AAG, and we are confident that our cadets will be able to benefit from their training there. We look forward to more collaborative opportunities with AAPA in the future."

AAPA expects to train about 60 UAE cadets per year for AAG UAE. Should this endeavour be successful, the collaboration will be extended to other academies within the AAG.

Wagga Wagga Mayor Wayne Geale invited the cadets to a mayoral reception two days after their arrival, giving them a warm welcome to the City of Wagga Wagga.



Clockwise from above: The UAE Cadets in the AAPA Hangar (L-R): Akbar Khan, Johns Johnson, Ali Shah, Aditya Singh, Venkatraman Gopalakrishnan and Qadir Moir; Wayne Geale, Mayor of Wagga Wagga City Council welcoming the students; Peter Adams (WWCC Director Commercial and Economic Development), Chris Hine (AAPA Chairman), Wayne Geale, and Warrick Lodge (Rex GM Network Strategy and Sales) with the students.