

# REX building pilot school

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**W**ork began in July on construction of Australian regional operator, Regional Express's (REX), new A\$25 million (US\$21 million) Australian Airline Pilot Academy (AAPA), at the Wagga Wagga airport in south western New South Wales.

REX managing director, Jim Davis, said an intake of 20 cadet pilots was already in training at Wagga Wagga, using a hangar at the airport as

a temporary measure while the new facility was being built. The first phase of the facility will be completed in January.

It will eventually have the capacity to produce more than 200 professional pilots a year for REX and other airlines operating in the growing Asia-Pacific market, including China.

The Rex Pilot Cadetship scheme offers an intensive live-in training programme which allows students to graduate



with a Commercial Pilots Licence, a Multi Engine Rating and Command Instrument Rating within 32 weeks.

REX has long complained

about a shortage of cockpit crew, the result of Australia's big airlines, including Qantas Airways, poaching its young pilots for their growing fleets. ■