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MEDIA RELEASE

Archerfield pilot training at unprecedented levels

Pilot training at Archerfield Airport in Brisbane will grow significantly during the next year following the recent announcement that Flight Training Australia had signed contracts to train cadet airline pilots from the People's Republic of China.

General Manager of Archerfield Airport Corporation (AAC), Captain Desmond Ross, said aircraft movements at the airport had jumped from an historical average of 10,000 to 12,000 a month to about 19,000 in one recent month as a result of increased training by a number of flight schools operating from Archerfield. However, there is some concern as to whether a recent directive issued by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority limiting the numbers of aeroplanes in the circuit, may limit the growth of training.

"The Corporation congratulates Flight Training Australia on securing contracts with China Eastern Airlines and the Civil Aviation University of China to train cadet airline pilots," Captain Ross said. "As a result, more than 30 new cadet pilots have started their training at Archerfield Airport, and a further 100 will complete their training here over the next 18 months.

"This is in addition to the many domestic and international students already enrolled in the integrated flight and ground school programs offered by training providers operating out of the airport."

Captain Ross said the contracts reflected Flight Training Australia's world-class standards and highlighted the important role of the airport in developing the next generation of airline pilots.

Located just 11km from the CBD, Archerfield Airport is Brisbane's metropolitan airport catering for general aviation in the greater Brisbane area. Through the success of Flight Training Australia and other flight training centres operating at the airport, Archerfield is earning a strong reputation as a pilot training centre of excellence in Australia.

"The Corporation's vision is to develop the airport as a centre of excellence for aeronautical and related industries, and we will continue to support the growth of our training schools and other general aviation operations," Captain Ross said.

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