



FOR RELEASE 25 MARCH 2024

New Zealand's biggest flying school launching in Auckland

The world can't get enough professional pilots – and that includes New Zealand.

By 2040, between 585,000 (according to Airbus) and 649,000 (says Boeing) new pilots will be needed to meet the demands of a growing aviation industry.

That spells opportunity for New Zealanders after a rewarding, high-paying career and is the driving force behind the formation today of New Zealand's largest flying school.

The newly-formed Auckland Pilot Training Group (APTG) gives aspiring aviators a pathway into this global industry, and for the first time gives the Auckland region a pilot training offering in line with the needs of its population.

APTG is a partnership between two large, established operators: Ardmore Flying School and Auckland International Pilot Academy. New Zealand's biggest flying school has 30 aircraft, 40 experienced instructors and four simulators, and operates from two airport campuses within 30 minutes of the Auckland CBD: Ardmore (near Papakura) and North Shore (near Silverdale).

APTG Ardmore Campus CEO Irene King says the move is long overdue. "Auckland is a fantastic place to learn to fly, with varied terrain, plenty of wide open spaces and the controlled airspace and procedures professional pilots need to experience during training. Operating from two of Auckland's fastest-growing areas puts us right where students and their families need us to be."

APTG North Shore Campus CEO John Punshon adds that APTG will also serve the enormous inbound training market. "New Zealand has a fantastic reputation internationally for professional pilot training. APTG's scale puts us on offshore airlines' radar in a region dominated by Australian training offerings."

"We want to elevate aviation as a career choice for Auckland rangatahi. In around 24 months we can train a new recruit to the point where they have the necessary licenses and ratings to land their first professional flying role, leading to a career with airlines, flight instructing, tourism, emergency services and more... it's a qualification pathway where the sky really is the limit.

APTG's international growth is supported by an aviation category-exclusive partnership with [Look Education New Zealand](#), a global international student recruitment company specialising in encouraging study in New Zealand, providing a full-service immigration and pastoral care support for the students recruited.

About Auckland Pilot Training Group

Auckland Pilot Training Group offers programmes including:

- Private and Commercial Pilot Licences
- Single and Multi-Engine Instrument Ratings and renewals
- New Zealand Diploma in Aviation Commercial Pilot and Instrument Rating (Level 5)
- C-Category Flight Instructor training – 4 or 5 intakes per year
- Air Transport Pilots Licence Examination Credits
- New Zealand Diploma in Aviation – Airline Preparation (Level 6)
- Multi-Crew Integration Course – MCIC
- DGCS and VNA specific training programmes

Benefits of choosing Auckland Pilot Training Group:

- Train at the largest pilot training group in New Zealand with over 125 years of combined training experience
- Two airport campuses with one aligned, integrated high quality standard
- Flexible start dates with a minimum of 6 intakes throughout the year
- A diverse fleet of 30 aircraft including 14 Cessna 172 and 2 DA42 Twin Stars
- Four CAA Licensed Simulators: Cessna 172, B200 King Air, A320, and DA42
- Experienced team of qualified Instructors (5 A-Cats, 6 B-Cats, and 27 C-Cats)
- Remote accessibility for flight theory courses through the Stoneybrook e-learning platform providing some surety of selection onto the programme
- High quality accommodation in close proximity to the chosen campus
- Transport if necessary to and from accommodation
- Externally moderated exams and commercial pilot flight tests and ratings.
- 7 day a week operations
- A limited number of student loans available

Our shared values of professionalism, diversity and inclusion, safety, integrity, and respect are the cornerstone of our partnership. By aligning our visions and pooling our expertise, Ardmore Flying School and Auckland International Pilot Academy form a unified force ready to achieve new heights in aviation education.

For more information contact:

Irene King

irene.king@ardmore.co.nz

021 936838

John Punshon

john.punshon@aipa.ac.nz

021 959497