

Virgin Australia and Skywest name preferred pilot training provider

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Virgin Australia and Skywest Airlines have named Flight Training Adelaide as the preferred training provider

to operate the new Pilot Cadetship program.

Virgin Australia General Manager, Group Flight Operations, Brad Thomann, today confirmed the

appointment of the world-class training provider, based at Parafield Airport South Australia.

“I am proud that Virgin Australia has been able to create a program that makes it possible for more

Australians to realise their dream of becoming a commercial airline pilot,” Captain Thomann said.

“The cadet program will supplement pilot recruitment from more traditional career paths and provide us a

consistent long-term pipeline of well-trained pilots for years to come.”

“Flight Training Adelaide will provide the highest quality training to our cadets through their modern facilities

and training methodologies, and we look forward to welcoming them as new recruits in the years ahead,”

Captain Thomann said.

Unlike any other major Australian airline pilot cadet program, Virgin Australia will assist successful

candidates financially, advancing upfront training course costs and will also assist with accommodation and

meals during the training program at Flight Training Adelaide.

Flight Training Adelaide, Chief Executive Officer, Pine Pienaar, said his company was committed to

delivering the highest quality pilots to Virgin Australia and Skywest.

“Since 1982, Flight Training Adelaide has trained cadets for some of the world’s largest airlines including

Cathay Pacific, Qantas, Emirates, Dragonair and JAL Express. We take great pride in delivering world’s best

practice pilot training programs,” Mr Pienaar said.

Recruitment advertising is expected to commence in August 2012, with the first 56-week course expected to

commence in December 2012. There is no requirement to hold any prior aviation qualifications or

certification to be eligible for entry. At completion, candidates will hold the following qualifications:

Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL); Multi Engine Command Instrument Rating (MECIR); Air Transport Pilots

Licence (ATPL); Multi-Crew Training and Jet Conversion Training.

It is planned that cadets will operate as First Officers on the ATR fleet operated by Skywest for

approximately three years or 1,500 hours (total time), before transition to a Virgin Australia Jet First Officer

position. This tailored training in Skywest will ensure that the pilot exceeds the current minimum experience

requirements for jet operations with Virgin Australia

