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ALPHA AVIATION TAKES OUT TOP ENGINEERING AWARD

Leading New Zealand aircraft manufacturer, Alpha Aviation Limited took away the **Supreme Award for New Zealand Engineering Excellence 2006**.

Organised and adjudicated by the Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand Inc (IPENZ) in association with several other engineering organisations, the New Zealand Engineering Excellence Awards attracted hundreds of entries in 12 categories.

Against stiff competition, Alpha Aviation - which also won the Mechanical and Manufacturing category award - received high praise from the judges. They specifically commented on the company's substantial contribution to the Waikato economy through direct employment and via subcontracting of the manufacture of more than 700 component parts. Alpha Aviation estimates that contribution will be in excess of \$75 million over the next decade.



The judges also acknowledged Alpha Aviation's strong export prospects with more than 90 per cent of their two seater, aerobatic training aircraft likely to be sold offshore. International interest from pilot training organisation is already very strong: Hamilton-based CTC Aviation Training centre which trains pilots in both New Zealand and the United Kingdom for leading international airlines, recently entered into contracts for the supply of 26 Alpha aircraft.

In accepting the award, Alpha Aviation Managing Director paid tribute to company founder Richard Izard and the Alpha team.

"Our company is the result of one man's passion for aviation and his vision. Richard Izard was quick to see the many benefits and opportunities that establishing Alpha Aviation in New Zealand might bring. He has certainly been proven right.

"Our success to date has been influenced by a combination of factors, not least of which has been the unwavering support we have received from all quarters. In particular I would like to thank our staff and suppliers for going above and beyond the call of duty on a daily basis in our pursuit of excellence," Mr Sealy said.

Alpha Aviation currently has 48 confirmed orders and 21 options to buy aircraft from around the globe. Due to higher than anticipated demand for the aircraft, Alpha Aviation is also expanding its Hamilton facility by more than 40 per cent to enable a substantial increase in production capacity.

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