



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - 22 August 2006

## **ALPHA AVIATION LIMITED SOUGHT BY GREGORY AUSTRALIA LIMITED**

New Zealand aircraft manufacturer, Alpha Aviation Limited today announced that agreement has been reached for Gregory Australia Limited (Gregory) to acquire all the shares on issue in Alpha Aviation Limited.

Alpha Aviation Chairman, Graeme Edwards said that agreement is still subject to the execution of a share sale agreement, due diligence, regulatory approvals, and final approval by the shareholders of Alpha and Gregory.

Gregory is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX code: GIL) and, through a series of recent mergers and alliances, is fast becoming a substantial, multi-faceted business entity. Gregory and Alpha Aviation already have shareholders and directors in common: Richard Sealy, Managing Director of Alpha is also Chairman of Gregory, while Tony Noun serves as a director of both companies. In addition, Alpha's current shareholders Richard IZARD, Graeme Edwards, Barry Colman, Tony Noun and Richard Sealy are already substantial Gregory shareholders. Should this transaction be completed, they will own 51 per cent of Gregory Australia Limited.

The organisational structure of Alpha will remain unchanged with Richard Sealy continuing as Managing Director.

Graeme Edwards said the acquisition by Gregory paved the way for continued growth at Alpha Aviation.

"Gregory Australia will provide Alpha with considerable financial strength to meet its planned exponential growth. Gregory is well financed and through the ASX can access the capital necessary to support Alpha Aviation's ambitious expansion plans," Mr Edwards said.

At present, Gregory is comprised of three separate business strands - Gregory Commercial Furniture, PNE Electronics and Opentec International - all of which demonstrate similar attributes: proven innovation; inspired design; and ownership of intellectual property.

"Alpha meets these criteria admirably and it is for this reason that Gregory sees it as complementing its existing business units.

"And, despite the fact that Gregory is an Australian entity, this will not affect the operation of our Waikato-based business. Alpha Aviation will continue to operate from its existing location at Hamilton Airport. Export revenues and profits will also remain in New Zealand," Mr Edwards said.

Should this transaction be completed, it is anticipated that Gregory will apply for dual listing on the New Zealand Stock Exchange at a later date.

[ends]

For more information, visit [www.alphaaviation.co.nz](http://www.alphaaviation.co.nz)

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Graeme Edwards  
Chairman  
Alpha Aviation Limited  
Ph. (021) 867 586  
Email. [graeme@argyle.co.nz](mailto:graeme@argyle.co.nz)

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### About Gregory Australia Limited

Gregory Australia Limited (ASX : GIL) is currently comprised of three separate business entities:

**Gregory Commercial Furniture (GCF):** is a market leading commercial furniture manufacturing business. With a positioning statement - 'Ergonomic to the core' - GCF is renowned for its high quality, innovative commercial furniture. GCF's aim is to maintain market leadership in the corporate, government and healthcare sectors as it continues to expand its product portfolio.

**PNE Electronics (PNE):** is an electronics engineering and manufacturing business specialising in electronic control systems. PNE supplies control systems for a wide range of products from air conditioners and environmental control systems through to biomedical equipment and smart vending machines. PNE has an enviable track record of developing award-winning designs and patented technologies and has considerable electronics design and research and development ability.

**Opentec International (Opentec):** specialises in the design and manufacture of rugged mobile computing systems including PDAs, GPS and computers. Opentec products are used by the defence industry, emergency services and field service/support environments. The products incorporate features that make them significantly more versatile and durable than most "toughened" commercial-grade products currently available. Opentec continues to develop and acquire outstanding innovative technology that will be used for a range of new generation equipment.

### About Alpha Aviation Limited

Alpha Aviation, located in Hamilton, New Zealand, secured the sole worldwide rights to manufacture and market the Alpha 2000 series training aircraft (formerly known as the Robin R2160 and Robin R2120) in 2004.

The Alpha 2000 series is comprised of the basic trainer Alpha 120T, the fuel injected aerobatic trainer and cross country touring Alpha 160Ai, and the FAA certified 160A aerobatic trainer aircraft. These aircraft have been updated and improved to bring them in line with the standards expected of aircraft manufactured in this decade.

Alpha Aviation's aim is to produce an aircraft that is affordable for flight training organisations, aero clubs, flying schools and private owner/operators, without compromising quality. Since the first aircraft came off the production line in April 2006, 22 orders have been confirmed.