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ALPHA AVIATION RECEIVES FAA CERTIFICATION

New Zealand aircraft manufacturer, Alpha Aviation, has been cleared for take-off in the United States. The company's flagship aircraft - the Alpha 160A - a two-seater, aerobatic training aircraft has just received Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certification.

Alpha Aviation Managing Director, Richard Sealy says that the company has already received many enquiries from the United States.

"Our aircraft have already proven to be of considerable interest to United States aero clubs and flying schools. FAA certification will now enable us to actively market and sell our aircraft in this hugely significant market," he said.

Having received CAA and EASA certification in June, Alpha Aviation had been keen to finalise the certification process that will enable them to actively market their aircraft in the United States.

Given that the United States accounts for 69 percent of the total world general aviation market, FAA certification is the single-most important step in securing the long-term viability of Alpha Aviation.

Alpha Aviation Managing Director, Richard Sealy says the significance of FAA certification cannot be underestimated.

"In the world of aviation, FAA certification is the equivalent of the Pope's blessing! Alpha Aviation has now really arrived on the international aviation stage," he said.

The Alpha 2000 series 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, is now selling in Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

"2006 has been a watershed year for Alpha Aviation. Our first New Zealand-built aircraft came off the production line in April and orders have continued to flood in. We were also delighted to receive the Supreme Award for New Zealand Engineering Excellence 2006, a hotly contested award and a major achievement for a fledgling company," Mr Sealy said.

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

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For more information, visit www.alphaaviation.co.nz

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