

REX AUSTRALIAN AIRLINE PILOT ACADEMY, WAGGA WAGGA



Overview

Regional Express Holdings Pty Ltd (REX) appointed Zauner Construction as the successful tenderer to undertake the design and construction of a new state-of-the-art Airline Pilot Training Academy in Wagga Wagga NSW.

This was a landmark project for REX and is the first Airline Pilot Training Academy in the Asia Pacific region. The Academy is a fully contained campus that gives the trainee pilot state of the art classrooms which comply with the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) standards; individual rooms for all students, and complete recreational facilities. It is also able to cater for foreign students with fully equipped language laboratories. It is adjacent to the Flight Training Centre with its own hangar where all the aircraft are parked and made available for flight training.

Structure

The complex comprises of four individual buildings containing student accommodation, administration, full kitchen and gymnasium, 25m pool, archive building and includes a combined basketball/volleyball/ tennis court recreational area. The construction of the buildings were principally concrete slab on ground using precast panels to create individual rooms to achieve the required fire rating. Bonded slab was used for additional storey's.

Initiatives

To accelerate construction, all external window assemblies were fabricated off site. This included windows, aluminum frames, internal finished paneling, insulation and computer and electrical wiring.

As part of this project, Rex Airlines needed to relocate the SAAB 300 plane which is used for training for Flight Attendants and plane emergency evacuation procedures. The existing plane had to be towed to the airfield perimeter fence, lifted over the fence using a 200 tonne crane equipped with specialized lifting rigging then towed to the airport access road, lifted over road and fences to be placed in its permanent position. As the engines and fuel tanks had been removed, the plane's centre of gravity had been affected and it required drums full of water to be strategically placed to ensure the plane stayed level during the lifting process.

Environmental

Extensive land scaping has been completed around all buildings to enhance the open area concept, storm water storage, and a recycling water system is used for irrigation. Lighting, where possible, is motion detector controlled for energy efficiency.

Time & Performance

In order to achieve the clients desired completion date of only 8 months, the project was fast tracked on a design and construct basis with early works being completed before final design.

Client

Rex Australian Airline Pilot Academy
 Neville Howell
 General Manager Flight Operations
 P: 02 9023 3521

Value

\$12.0m

Construction Period

June 2009 to May 2010

Location

Wagga Wagga NSW

Awards

2011 MBA NSW Excellence in Construction Regional Building Awards Winner for Best Commercial Project Over \$10m in the Southern Central Region.