



Information Release – 30 Jun 2011

V-TOL SUPPORTS FIRST CASA UNMANNED AIRCRAFT (UA) PILOT COURSE

In what could be a world first, V-TOL Aerospace recently supported the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) Level One (1) Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) Course held within the boundaries of an active civilian aerodrome. Intended as a “test case”, the lessons learnt from the course will act as a pathway to how all future commercial RPA and UA courses are developed and conducted in Australia and possibly throughout the world.

V-TOL contributed to the course by providing the practical RPA flying component, including use of its UA Operating Certificate (3IRFZ-02), Chief Pilot, Level One (1) Delta-electric RPAs, ground station, support equipment and Instructors from its education and training arm the Australian Unmanned Systems Academy (AUSA*). Insurance for the instructional flying component was provided to V-TOL by QBE Aviation Insurance at short notice enabling the course to proceed with full coverage.



V-TOL AUSA Level One (1) RPA Instructors conducting manual flight operations testing with two of the ten students on the first CASA lead Level One (1) RPA training course at Archerfield Aerodrome.

“This initiative is a great step forward after two years of careful planning by CASA and the fledgling Australian commercial UA industry. Companies like V-TOL are currently well positioned to lead the world in many aspects of the emerging global commercial UA market. To grow this industry at a safe and sustainable rate will require a new generation of highly trained certified aviators,” said Peter Hill, UA Programs Director.

“Conducting RPA flight operations within the manned aircraft circuit of Archerfield aerodrome without interruption to normal operations was extremely beneficial for the students and demonstrated how it can be done safely and routinely. We consider the course a complete success and with the lessons learnt, V-TOL through AUSA has the core capabilities, experience and relationships to deliver world class UA Pilot training courses,” said Mark Xavier, V-TOL Chief Pilot and Managing Director.

V-TOL Aerospace is an Australian leader in UA technology, flight operations and training.

*AUSA is the educational and training arm of V-TOL Aerospace. See www.ausacademy.org

For further information see www.v-tol.com or contact us @ info@v-tol.com