

Vero Beach's FlightSafety could land more students with new international partnerships

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Vero Beach — FlightSafety International is making room for more global student-pilots.

The company made three significant announcements that could mean more international students from Europe and the Russian Federation training at FlightSafety's facilities at the Vero Beach Municipal Airport.

"There's a real need for pilots outside the U.S.," said New York-based FlightSafety International spokesman Steve Phillips. "Obviously here, because of the way things are with travel, we don't have much of the same demand."

Starting in 2010, the Pilot Training Network, a subsidiary of Germany-based Lufthansa Flight Training, GmbH, will start visual flight rules training at the FlightSafety Academy in Vero Beach. The company is relocating training from Croatia.

Additionally, the local facility has also entered into a separate agreement with United Kingdom-based CABAIR and its affiliate, Orlando Flight Training, to jointly offer JAA pilot training, the European standard for aviation regulation.

Phase One of the 13-month, three-phase program, will be conducted in Vero Beach and includes completion of the FAA private pilot license program, single-engine instrument rating and an hours-build course.

The training will be conducted in Piper Warrior Cadet aircraft over a six-month period. Orlando Flight Training will conduct Phase Two of the program and students will then go on to complete the final course with CABAIR.

In September, the Vero Beach training facility received approval from the Federal Air Transportation Agency of the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation for the

training programs it offers. That means its training programs meet the requirements of the State Civil Aviation Authority of the Russian Federation.

Phillips said because it had about 5,000 trainers in the company's global network, FlightSafety's Vero Beach academy would be able to absorb additional students without any additional hires.

"On site we still have a lot of capacity," Phillips said. "We have space for 350 students."

Helene Caseltine, director of economic development for the Indian River County Chamber of Commerce, called the announcements positive for the region.

"It gives us great exposure to those parts of the world," Caseltine said. "Some of those families will be visiting students during training. Often times, when people visit here, they fall in love with the area and think about moving their businesses here."

FlightSafety International is one of the largest professional aviation training companies and a supplier of flight simulators, visual systems and displays to commercial, government and military organizations. The company has domestic training locations and other training facilities in Canada, Europe, South Africa and Asia.

