SMARTLYNX AIRLINES JOINS PILOT RUNWAY PROJECT— FINANCED PILOT TRAINING PROGRAM

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SmartLynx Airlines has joined Avion Express and Air Explore in the Pilot Runway project. Recently launched by BAA Training and backed by its parent company, Avia Solutions Group, the innovative pilot training program offers a financial solution, and a job guarantee at the group's airlines upon successfully completing the training. IATA estimates that half a million pilots will need to be recruited globally over the next two decades. In Europe, 5,000 to 6,000 new pilots will be needed annually. In response to this demand, the Pilot Runway program aims to train up to 200 new pilots yearly through its Multi-Crew Pilot License program.

Norbertas Akromas, Managing Director for Pilot Runway, stated how Pilot Runway is adding to preparing airline-ready pilots for the ongoing demand: "MPL pilots are taken under the wing of a specific airline right from the beginning, creating a dedicated talent pipeline for the airline while also offering pilots long-term job security—truly a win-win. Another key distinction of Pilot Runway is that the training costs, which can be steep for some, are no longer a barrier. Prospective students receive financing from one of the airline partners for their training, and SmartLynx Airlines is one of them now, which we're very happy to have on board the program."

Edvinas Demenius, CEO of SmartLynx Airlines said: "We operate one of the largest and most diverse fleets in the global ACMI industry, which requires a dedicated and skilled crew to meet our clients' needs worldwide. Above all, we are committed not only to attracting new pilots but also to

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supporting their growth within our organization. Through upgrade opportunities, expanded roles, and focused retention efforts, we ensure our team can develop professionally and take on new responsibilities as we grow together.”

New partnership is further expanding Pilot Runway's reach and impact, offering more opportunities for aspiring pilots to start their careers in aviation and lending a helping hand in solving the ongoing pilot demand issue.

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