

# Hawker Pacific provides King Air B200s to RNZAF

RNZAF 42 Squadron has operated five King Air B200s since 1998 when they were leased to replace the squadron's Andover fleet. Based at Ohakea since 2002, the squadron is under the command of the RNZAF Flying Training Wing, with the aircraft being tasked for multi-engine conversion and continuation training of pilots including those on Wings courses, and a limited VIP transport role around New Zealand.

In October 2012, the NZ Defence Force signed a contract with Hawker Pacific New Zealand for the supply and maintenance support of four King Air B200 aircraft to replace the present fleet which have been returned to the previous lessor.

King Airs are in widespread use for training and transport roles by Defence forces around the world. Australia for example, operate a fleet of King Air 350s. "The King Air B200 is a high performance turboprop aircraft that has proven itself to Defence forces across the world as a flexible and reliable platform," says Craig Purry, Vice President for Government Business Hawker Pacific.

Although not new, the replacement aircraft are a significant upgrade to the present fleet, having advanced Rockwell Collins Pro-Line 21 avionics suites which among many other advantages, now enables Air Force crew training to take place in a modern cockpit environment. Completely refurbished, with new paint and corporate transport interiors, the new B200s are also much more suited to their VIP transport role within New Zealand.

Air Vice-Marshal Peter Stockwell, Chief of Air Force, says that "The B200 aircraft is a critical component of our fleet as it will be our interim advanced pilot training aircraft and also provide a domestic air transport capability."

Once notified as the preferred tenderer, Hawker Pacific arranged the purchase of the fleet of aircraft and ferried them to New Zealand. They were then modified, tested and accepted, including gaining the necessary airworthiness approval of both NZCAA and NZ Defence Force.

General Manager of Hawker Pacific New Zealand, Steve Siddall, says his team at Ardmore did a superb job of configuring the aircraft to RNZAF requirements with a very quick turnaround time from when they first arrived in the country only a couple of months prior to going into service. Also involved were Aviation Painting Services of Hamilton, who repainted all of the B200s into RNZAF livery, taking little more than a week for each aircraft.

A large range of modifications were made to the standard

aircraft in order to meet the operational needs of the RNZAF as well as to supplement the factory standard advanced Rockwell Collins Pro-Line 21 avionics suite and Pratt & Whitney PT6 turbo-prop engines. Further, all aircraft have been identically configured, greatly simplifying training, operational, and maintenance requirements.

The new leasing contract term is for five years and includes on-site maintenance of the four new aircraft at Ohakea by Hawker Pacific, who have set up a base there employing 13 staff for the task. The team is managed by Maurice Gordon, previously of Asia Pacific Aerospace and very well known throughout the NZ aviation industry.

Craig Purry says that "The five year performance-based contract encompasses an innovative finance leasing solution provided through Hawker Pacific New Zealand. It also provides support arrangements utilising the unique and efficient Hawker-developed Hybrid Airworthiness processes which have been specifically tailored to meet the demanding RNZAF training and air lift operational requirements." He adds that "The demonstrated strength of the relationships that have already been established across all facets of the project bodes extremely well for the future success of this project going forward. Hawker Pacific's approach in combining civilian efficiencies and tailored military specific customer outcomes is especially relevant in an era where

there is increasing pressure to deliver capabilities in an innovative and cost effective manner."

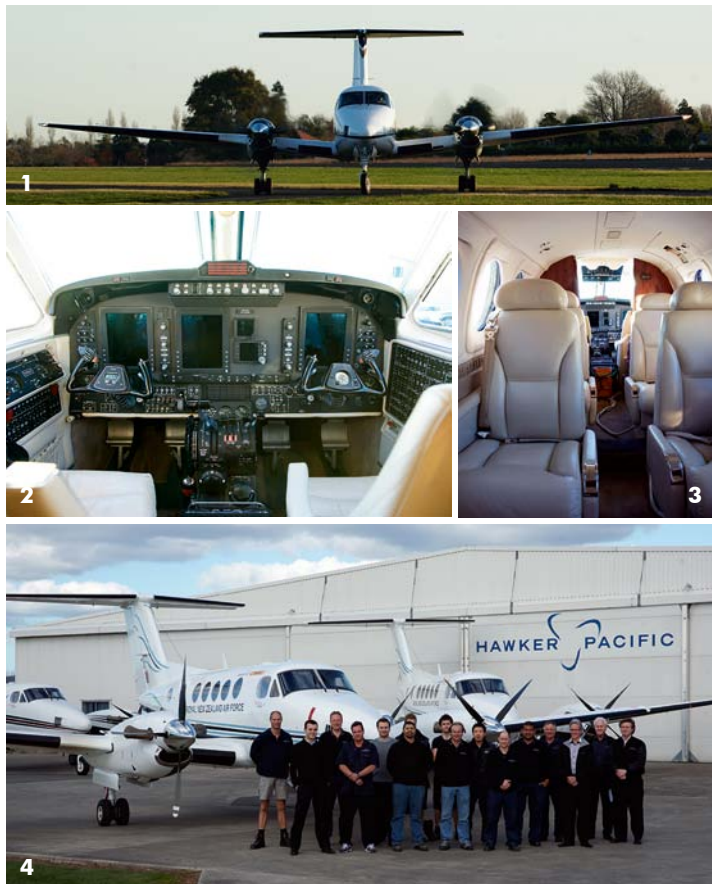
The effort and dedication of numerous members in the Hawker Pacific team has already been rewarded by seeing the new relationship between RNZAF and Hawker Pacific off to a great start. "We are delighted to welcome these newer B200s into the Air Force fleet and we look forward to working with Hawker Pacific," said Air Vice-Marshal Stockwell.

## King Air B200 Specifications

Engines: Two P&W PT6A-42 rated at 850 Shaft HP each.  
 Length 13.33m, Wingspan 16.61m, Height 4.57m  
 Basic weight 3,700kg, MTOW 5670kg  
 Range 3,635km, Endurance 5.5hrs, Speed 289kts, Ceiling 35,000ft.

## For more information

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**1.** The first of the new fleet to arrive at Ardmore was this example, ex USA, during June. **2.** All of the replacement aircraft are configured with Rockwell Collins Pro-Line 21 avionics suites. **3.** Interiors are configured for VIP domestic transport. **4.** A proud Hawker Pacific team at Ardmore on delivery day with the four B200s on the apron.