

Qatar Airways in pact to hire Indian pilots

By Pratap John
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National carrier Qatar Airways and the India-based National Flying Training Institute (NFTI) have signed a memorandum of understanding for the provision and placement of commercial pilots from India at the airline as entry level second officers.

The agreement, signed on the opening day of the India Aviation Air Show 2010, the second International Exhibition and Conference on Civil Aviation in Hyderabad, is designed to select successful NFTI students to be sent overseas for positions with the rapidly expanding airline based in Doha.

With more than 200 aircraft worth \$40bn currently on order for delivery over the next few years, Qatar Airways will need to recruit more pilots and increase its overall workforce.

Qatar Airways is one of the fastest growing airlines in the world, currently flying a modern fleet of 81 aircraft to some 86 destinations across Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia Pacific, South Asia and North America.

With the fleet set to grow to 120 aircraft by 2013 and current global network of 86 destinations also expected to rise to 120 by 2013, Qatar Airways is continuing its expansion strategy with vigour.



From left: Roberts, Patel and al-Baker at the signing ceremony.

Recently, Qatar Airways celebrated another milestone in its short and remarkable history announcing that its fleet size has grown to 80 aircraft -- double the size it was five years ago.

The airline inducted its 15th Boeing 777 into the fleet and maintains a delivery schedule of more than one new aircraft a month.

The agreement was signed for Qatar

Airways by its chief executive officer, Akbar al-Baker and for National Flying Training Institute by CAE Group president Jeff Roberts on the sidelines of the India Aviation 2010 Air Show in Hyderabad. NFTI is affiliated to CAE, a training academy.

India's Minister for Civil Aviation Praful Patel was among the dignitaries present.