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NEWS INFORMATION

CHINESE TEAM TRAINS IN BIRMINGHAM FOR NEW TYRE VENTURE

Six tyre production operatives and a supervisor, the first recruits for Dunlop Aircraft Tyres' new retreading operation in China, are set to return to the country following the completion of a training course in Birmingham that has prepared them for the opening of the facility.

Zhang Gong Kai, Xie Lin Jun, Chen Yang Wei, Wang Qian Kun, Lin Xian Ze, Yang Xi Kun and Chen Sheng Feng have spent six months training at the company's new tyre manufacturing and retreading site in Erdington.

While in England the new recruits have been given full training to ensure that they can successfully replicate the plant's best practice when the operation in Jinjiang opens early next year.

Dunlop Taikoo (Jinjiang) Aircraft Tyres Company Limited is a joint venture between Dunlop Aircraft Tyres, Hong Kong Aircraft Engineering Company Limited (HAECO) and Taikoo (Xiamen) Aircraft Engineering Company Limited (TAECO).

The facility will support airlines based in the Asia Pacific region by distributing new tyres that have been manufactured in Birmingham and by providing a retread service.

Retreading helps airlines maximise their investment in tyres and is an integral part of the procurement process. By having local capability in China, Dunlop Aircraft Tyres will be able to increase its share of the growing Asia Pacific market.

"Work has already started on the construction of the facility and our first recruits have been in Birmingham preparing for next year's opening," said Dunlop Aircraft Tyres' chairman, Ian Edmondson "I am very pleased with the progress that we are making.

“The investment will help us strengthen our business in the Asian Pacific market, which we estimate as being worth \$100 million. We also hope that the ability to retread locally will encourage more airlines there to purchase new tyres that we have made in Birmingham.”

AAC Capital Partners, formerly the private equity business of ABN Amro, acquired 74.6 per cent ownership of Dunlop Aircraft Tyres in May 2007.

Ends.

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Notes to editors:

About Dunlop Aircraft Tyres

Based in Birmingham, Dunlop Aircraft Tyres Ltd specialises in the supply of aircraft tyres and tubes from design thorough to delivery, using the most sophisticated precision and manufacturing and retreading techniques available today. In its 98-year history, Dunlop Aircraft Tyres has achieved worldwide recognition and today is the only dedicated aircraft tyre manufacturer and retreader. The company focuses solely on meeting the needs of the aviation industry with a comprehensive product range available, backed by service 24 hours a day, all year round. Dunlop Aircraft Tyres' high profile customers include major international airlines, aircraft constructors, wheel and brake manufacturers and maintenance facilities throughout the world.