



### Grenchen Airport gets new training partnership

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Zurich/Grenchen – The Grenchen Flying School, Grenchen Airport and Swiss AviationTraining are to work more closely together, the three partners have announced. The new collaboration will see Swiss AviationTraining establish a separate basic flight training operation at the airport with its own dedicated aircraft.

Swiss AviationTraining (SAT) has been commissioning the Grenchen Flying School to conduct flight training on its behalf at Grenchen Airport for several years now. These activities form part of SAT's basic pilot training, whose various phases include spells of practical flight training in Switzerland and in the USA.

The Grenchen-based basic flight training component is currently used to instruct trainees in visual flight rules (VFR) flying, while instrument flight rules (IFR) training has so far been conducted in the USA and in Bern, Switzerland. Under the new closer collaboration between SAT, the Grenchen Flying School and Grenchen Airport, this IFR training will also be conducted in Grenchen by SAT using its own training aircraft.

The decision to move more of SAT's basic pilot training to Grenchen is based on a number of factors. These include the relatively low investment needed to set up a flight training operation, the ease with which the new operation can be run thanks to the Grenchen Flying School's existing management organisation and (in particular) SAT's years of good cooperation with these local partners.

Overall responsibility for the new project lies with Captain Rolf Eickstädt, Head of Basic Pilot Training at Swiss AviationTraining. One simulator and two Diamond Twin Star DA42 aircraft have already been ordered for the new training operation. The simulator will be put into service in Zurich in the next few days, while the aircraft will be deployed at Grenchen from May 2008 onwards.

The closer collaboration between SAT, the Grenchen Flying School and Grenchen Airport will enable all three partners to enhance their training activities and the associated business success without having to invest in additional infrastructure and equipment. The collaboration should thus be of major benefit to all parties, and should also avoid any major increase in the use of the airport or in the associated environmental pressure on the airport and its surroundings.

Source: Swiss AviationTraining

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