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*For Immediate Release*

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## **SkyAlyne announces pan-Canadian team of experts for FAcT program**

**August 19, 2020—Ottawa, ON**— SkyAlyne, a partnership between Canadian aviation and defence companies CAE and KF Aerospace, has officially unveiled its expanded team of strategic subcontractors to pursue the Royal Canadian Air Force's (RCAF) Future Aircrew Training (FAcT) program. SkyAlyne is a qualified supplier for the FAcT program.

Canadian-based companies ATCO Frontec, Bluedrop Training and Simulation, Canadian Base Operators, Canadian Helicopters, and SERCO Canada will add considerable expertise, experience and Canadian content to SkyAlyne's bid. PAL Aerospace is a notable new addition to the SkyAlyne team, bringing unparalleled Canadian experience in airborne surveillance and intelligence operations, sensor operator training, mission systems development and aircraft modification capabilities.

The SkyAlyne team collectively employs more than 14,000 Canadians and operates in every region of Canada – from coast to coast to coast.

"We are pleased to officially announce our pan-Canadian team of experienced partners," says SkyAlyne Board Chair Tracy Medve. "Our goal is to work with the Royal Canadian Air Force to continue providing a world-class aircrew training program built by Canadians for Canadians. These partnerships will strengthen SkyAlyne's position and help us move towards our objective to retain this crucial military capability in Canada."

As the only Canadian-founded and Canadian-based qualified supplier competing for the FAcT program, SkyAlyne has unique experience and expertise in military pilot and aircrew training specifically for the RCAF. SkyAlyne's parent companies – CAE and KF Aerospace – currently deliver all phases of pilot training for the Royal Canadian Air Force through the NATO Flying Training in Canada (NFTC) program based in Moose Jaw, SK/Cold Lake, AB, and the Contracted Flying Training and Support (CFTS) program based in Southport, MB, respectively.

The subcontractors announced as part of the SkyAlyne team have extensive experience working with the RCAF. Most also currently support the existing training programs managed by CAE and KF Aerospace.

"This agreement further ensures that the FAcT program benefits from the very latest Canadian expertise and innovation in aircrew training," says SkyAlyne President France Hébert. "If selected, SkyAlyne will train the next generation of Royal Canadian Air Force airwomen and airmen while helping grow Canadian small- and medium-sized businesses as well as local and Indigenous communities. The selection of the SkyAlyne team would be a win-win for the Royal Canadian Air Force and for the Canadian aerospace industry."

- 30 -

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### **About SkyAlyne Canada**

**Truly Canadian Training** | SkyAlyne brings together two Canadian companies with unmatched experience and capabilities in the delivery of pilot and aircrew training in Canada. Currently, CAE and KF Aerospace deliver all phases of pilot training to the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) through the NATO Flying Training in Canada (NFTC) program managed by CAE, and the Contracted Flying Training and Support (CFTS) program managed by KF Aerospace.

### **About Future Aircrew Training (FAcT)**

The Future Aircrew Training Program (FAcT) is the Government of Canada's next-generation military pilot and aircrew training program, combining all Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) pilot training with aircrew support training. SkyAlyne is a qualified supplier for the FAcT program. Currently, the contract award date is expected in 2023. [Website](#)

## About ATCO Frontec

ATCO Frontec is a division of ATCO Ltd, a \$22-billion enterprise with approximately 6,500 employees, engaged in structures & logistics, utilities, energy infrastructure, retail energy, transportation, and commercial real estate. ATCO Frontec provides operational support services, facilities management, workforce lodging services and disaster and emergency management solutions to support government and defence operations, industrial and resource sectors around the world.

"ATCO Frontec is proud to be a member of the SkyAlyne Team for Future Aircrew Training in Canada," says Jim Landon, President, ATCO Frontec. "We have a long history of providing Operational Support Services to the Canadian Armed Forces in training and on deployed operations around the world, and in line with the ATCO motto, we're 'Always there, Anywhere'."

**Head Office —** Calgary, Alberta

**Website —** [www.atcofrontec.com](http://www.atcofrontec.com)

## About Bluedrop Simulation & Training

Bluedrop designs and develops advanced training solutions including highly interactive courseware and state-of-the-art virtual reality and augmented reality (VR&AR) training and simulation products. As a Small & Medium Business (SMB), Bluedrop is the partner of choice, by bringing capabilities in R&D, innovative solution development and execution excellence.

"Bluedrop is extremely proud to be part of SkyAlyne team," says CEO of Bluedrop Training & Simulation, Derrick Rowe. "This is key for a Canadian SMB like Bluedrop, as the program will enhance our key industrial capabilities in training, simulation and support."

**Head Office —** Halifax, Nova Scotia

**Website —** <http://bluedropts.com/>

## About Canadian Base Operators

For over 25 years, Canadian Base Operators has provided customized facilities management and logistical support services to clients in the Canadian defence, aviation, and energy sectors. In addition to providing comprehensive facilities management operations solutions for Canadian military bases and training facilities, CBO fulfills specialized military support functions, including Airfield Operations, Air Traffic Control, transportation, supply, communications equipment maintenance, and logistics, using a solid Canadian supply chain which includes Small and Medium Business (SMB) suppliers and Indigenous suppliers and partners. CBO's services

represent 100% Canadian Content Value in support of Industrial and Technological Benefit (ITB) and Value Proposition requirements

"CBO is proud to provide a strong, dependable and diversified Canadian workforce," says Larry Macdonald, President of CBO. "CBO offers facilities management and logistical support services tailored to the unique requirements of the Canadian Department of National Defence. Our skilled workforce, strong Canadian supply chain, and proven dedication to safety, quality, and performance, make us uniquely equipped to serve the needs of the RCAF through the FAcT program."

**Head Office —** Collingwood, ON

**Website —** <https://www.canadianbaseoperators.com/>

### **About Canadian Helicopters**

Canadian Helicopters is the largest helicopter transportation services company operating in Canada with a network of 25 strategically located bases capable of providing operations in every geographical region in the country.

Providing helicopter transportation services to a diverse array of clients including oil & gas, military support, mineral exploration, hydro/utilities, forest management, construction, air ambulance, and search & rescue, Canadian Helicopters also provide international helicopter support to military customers. Canadian Helicopters operates over 90 light, medium, and heavy-lift helicopters and is authorized for both visual (VFR) and instrument (IFR) flight operations. In addition to charter services, Canadian Helicopters provides advanced flight training and helicopter repair and maintenance services.

"Canadian Helicopters is extremely pleased to be part of SkyAlyne, a very strong and capable consortium of Canadian companies with deep, relevant and current experience in supporting DND training programs. Canadian Helicopters has been engaged in helicopter training and maintenance support for the Canadian Forces for over 50 years and looks forward to providing both a technically superior and best value proposition to the Royal Canadian Air Force" says Don Wall, President and CEO.

**Head Office —** Montreal, QB

**Website —** <https://www.canadianhelicopters.com/>

### **About PAL Aerospace**

A Canadian-owned global aerospace and defence company based in St. John's NL, PAL Aerospace contributes unmatched Canadian capabilities in special mission aircraft training to

the SkyAlyne team, broadening SkyAlyne's pan-Canadian team with expertise in intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and in-service support solutions.

CEO of PAL Jake Trainor says, "PAL Aerospace is pleased to join SkyAlyne and contribute to the wholly Canadian solution we are offering for FAcT. With our deep capability and established track record in Special Mission Aircraft operations training, mission systems and aircraft modification capacity, PAL Aerospace provides a valuable, flexible, responsive and unique contribution to the team."

**Head Office** — St. John's, NL

**Website** — <https://palaerospace.com/>

### **About Serco Canada**

Serco is one of the largest non-government providers of air navigation services in the world, delivering air traffic control for the Canadian Armed Forces, regional airports across North America, as well as the largest commercial air hub on the globe. Serco Canada currently provides air traffic control, air information services, and ground electronic services to support NATO Flying Training in Canada (NFTC) at 15 Wing Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.

"Happy to be part of the SkyAlyne Team for FAcT," says Natasha McLean, Serco Services Canada Managing Director. "Serco is a trusted partner of governments, delivering superb public and defence services that transform outcomes and make a positive difference for our clients."

**Head Office** — Toronto, ON

**Website** — <https://www.serco.com/na>