

GRADUATES: Stephen Manna, Robert Lees, Nicholas Whitham, James Cachia, Liam Newbold, Daniel Arapidis, Alan Do and David Uscinski are among Rex's newest pilots.

New pilots earn their wings

ALAN Do decided when he was very young that all he wanted to do was become a pilot.

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Friday marked a major step forward in achieving that goal, with Mr Do one of the latest graduates to come through Regional Express' (Rex) Australian Airline Pilot Academy in Wagga.

"Probably at the age of 13 I joined the air force cadets and that really inspired me to continue my aviation passion," he said.

"That led me to the Rex cadetship - I heard about it in 2008 and then from there, that was my motivation throughout high school."

Up next for Mr Do is heading to the state-of-the-art flight simulator in Wagga next month before line training in Sydney, where he will be based as a first officer with Rex. Pilots who graduated yesterday will be based all over the country.