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Rex subsidiary Pel-Air wins Iluka mine contract

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REGIONAL Express subsidiary, Pel-Air Aviation, has won a three-year charter contract for Iluka Resources' mineral sands mine in the state's north.

Pel-Air will operate the charter services next week from its Adelaide base to Iluka's Jacinth-Ambrosia mine, 190 kilometres north-west of Ceduna.

The Jacinth-Ambrosia mine is one of Australia's largest mineral sands resources and is expected to start producing in 2010 with a forecast 10-year mine life.

Contenders for the contract had been thoroughly evaluated by Iluka before Pel-Air was selected, REX managing director Jim Davis said.

"The newly-awarded contract will bring about increased efficiencies for the Rex Group of companies as Pel-Air leverages from Rex' resources and facilities in South Australia," Mr Davis said.

Rex operates charter services to seven regional destinations from Adelaide and is Australia's largest independent regional airline operating a fleet of 40 Saab 340 aircraft across Australia.