

# USA's Spartan College to start flying & aeronautical engineering courses

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**T**HE ongoing aviation boom is attracting more interest from foreign players. US-based Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology is all set to start a new flying club in India which will not only train pilots but will also offer courses in aeronautical engineering. The college has already got the go ahead from the foreign investment promotion board (FIPB) and the institute is likely to be set up in Haryana soon.

There is an increasing demand to train engineers and ground personnel with the number of domestic airlines going up. Airlines have been conducting training programmes by sending their employees for advanced aircraft training to countries like US and Spain. Moreover, by its very na-

ture aviation employees need incremental programmes so as to keep themselves abreast with new aircraft engines and maintenance. The initiative is a joint venture with Indo-Pacific Aviation and Kubase Aviation, along with Atul Punj of Punj Lloyd. The joint venture will establish a flying training college and aircraft maintenance engineers school. The institution will conduct flying training for commercial pilots license for fixed wing aircraft and helicopters. It will also train both technicians and engineers for maintenance of the aircraft.

The school will, however, have to obtain locational licenses and clearances from the government of Haryana, Airports Authority of India and the director general of civil aviation (DGCA).

The joint venture meets all the necessary foreign direct investments guidelines and has been supported both by the ministry of



civil aviation. As no foreign airline is involved the proposal has been given approval under the guidelines that apply to domestic airport services. Such a proposal requires FIPB approval as per the extant rules.

Some of the major aviation institutes in the country such as School of Aviation Science and Technology, Delhi Indian Aviation

Academy, Mumbai Academy Of Aerospace & Aviation. However, there is a need for aircraft related services from qualified personnel. Spartan has been training commercial pilots as well as engineers and technicians at the Spartan School of Aviation in US since 1928 and the move to set up shop here will bring in much wanted training expertise in the country.