

# **Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) – Hour Builder**

The most demanding requirement for completing the ATP is the fact that you need 1500 logged flight hours as part of your aeronautical experience. If you just completed your Commercial Pilot License (250 hours) you have another 1250 hours to go. This is a substantial amount of flying time that might take you a couple of years to complete.

Amongst many hour-building options we will discuss the most common ones.

## **a) Working as a Flight Instructor**

All given dual flight hours can also be logged as your own hours. This makes instructing worthwhile for two reasons: 1) you can earn some money; 2) you can build up your flight hours. Moreover, by instructing you have to confront theory and practical skills from another angle that makes you a more thorough and competent pilot. Since an airline job includes constant teaching and learning e.g. a captain is teaching his first officer, it is a tremendous advantage to be an experienced instructor.

## **b) Working as a special task pilots**

Unfortunately you cannot work for a FAR PART 135 operation (Air-taxi) before you reach the 500 hours total time (for VFR), respectively 1200 hours total time (for IFR). The good news is, that there are still some options available such as Banner Flying, Ferry Flying and Corporate Flying of light aircraft PART 91, Glider Towing, Sight Seeing Flights, Power-line Supervision Flights and more.

## **c) Working as a PART 135 pilot**

Once you reached the 500 respectively 1200 hour level you could be hired by an air-taxi or air-cargo company to fly under FAR PART 135.

## **d) Buying your own aircraft**

This is another serious option if you plan to build your flight hours fast. Buying a light twin aircraft would also increase your valuable multi-engine time. You could even fly the hours with a fellow-pilot – one under the hood – both logging PIC time. This is probably the most economical solution if you want to achieve your ATP goal within reasonable time. After you finished the ATP you have the option to sell the aircraft.

## **e) Using a rental aircraft**

This is another option but it's fairly expensive. Advantage: You don't have to deal with maintenance, tie down etc. and you can fly whatever aircraft you like (single, twin). Likewise you can use a fellow-student for sharing the costs.