

## New facility is in demand

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Bookings are already stacking up for New Zealand's first world-class aircraft painting operation, which opens this month at Hamilton International Airport.

The big \$3 million facility has been developed by the Waikato Aviation Cluster, in partnership with a group of aviation companies and New Zealand Trade and Enterprise.

Aviation Painting Services is the product of two years of research into the latest technology for aircraft stripping, preparation and painting, says cluster general manager Shaun Mitchell.

"Painting has previously been done in a lot of converted hangars using old technology. The industry got used to a low-level of quality, whereas in the US and private aircraft sector they want the highest quality – as good as on a Ferrari," he says.

The new company can handle planes with a wingspan of up to 30 metres, and eventually will take on Boeing 737s and Airbus 320s.

The venture will provide jobs for up to 25 people.

**- Waikato Times**