

VT Group secures £35 million aircraft support contract

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Support services company VT Group has won the competition to provide support to the RAF's fleet of Tucano training aircraft.

The Tucano In-Service Support (TISS) contract is valued at up to £35 million for an initial period of four years with two further one-year options. Service delivery will start in April 2010. Under the terms of the contract, VT will guarantee the availability of the Tucano fleet of over 50 aircraft to deliver between 12,000 and 14,500 hours of flying training every year.

VT has supported the Tucano since the aircraft was first introduced into RAF service with the activity including engineering support and maintenance, flight line services and logistics. Most of the activity is based at RAF Linton-on-Ouse in North Yorkshire where Tucanos are used to train fast jet pilots before they progress onto the Hawk fast jet trainer.

VT Group Chief Executive Paul Lester said: "The TISS Programme supplements our work in the UK Military Flying Training System and initial military flying training to underline our position as the UK's leading provider of support to military flying training. "VT has been closely linked to the Tucano since the aircraft was introduced into RAF service and we are delighted to extend our support of the platform."