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*The rise and development of the aviation center in Rzeszów in the years 1946-2013 - industry, sport, science, education.*

**Abstract**

The history of the establishment of the Rzeszów aviation center and its development from 1946 to 2013 has been outlined in this work. The dissertation is divided into three chapters. The author's goal was to depict the development of aviation in Rzeszów on multiple fronts: sports, industry, and education. Due to the interconnected nature of the establishment of the Rzeszów aviation center, all these aspects were intertwined. The construction of the aviation center in Rzeszów was carried out from scratch after the war in a city practically without any aviation history.

The establishment of the Rzeszów Aero Club provided a strong impetus to all aviation enthusiasts in Rzeszów. It was one of the first to be founded in post-war Poland in the spring of 1946. The development of the aeroclub was dynamic, attracting talented youth, which in the 1970s and 1980s achieved significant success in international competitions. The growth of the WSK PZL Rzeszów plants in the 1960s and 1970s led to an increased demand for highly qualified engineering personnel. As a result of the WSK PZL Rzeszów management's initiative, an evening Engineering School was first established, followed later by the Rzeszów University of Technology.

In response to the growing demand for aviation personnel in the 1970s, the Aviation Personnel Training Center was established in Rzeszów. This center trained civilian aircraft pilots and ground service personnel.