

New Products Pilots and Owners Will Want

BY DALE SMITH

Whether flying a light-sport aircraft or a Falcon X, most pilots share one thing in common: the love of all things new. Which is the reason single-engine airplanes rarely are flown beyond the range of a \$100 (now \$150) hamburger but still are loaded with the latest avionics. The owner just had to have it — all of it.

Some of this year's latest and greatest products were introduced during the largest gathering of avionics professionals, the annual AEA International Convention & Trade Show, which takes place each spring. Nearly 60 new products, gadgets and gizmos were presented by 29 leading companies during the AEA Convention.

Here are some of the top new products in four categories: cockpit, cabin, maintenance and cool stuff.

THE COCKPIT

Avidyne

If you're fortunate enough to be flying with the Avidyne EX500 multi-function display, Avidyne released its 3.0 software upgrade, which allows users to get more XM weather products. The upgrade permits the EX500 to display XM WX storm tracks, hail alerts, TAFs, winds aloft and freezing levels. Software upgrades now are provided on a USB memory stick, which further simplifies Jeppesen NavData and Avidyne CMax Jeppesen JeppView approach chart updates.

For more information, contact Avidyne at 781-402-7400 or visit www.avidyne.com.

Chelton Flight Systems

Chelton Flight Systems introduced its new HeliSAS helicopter stability augmentation/autopilot system. The unit offers helicopter operators a greater degree of flexibility to match their specific needs. It can be installed as a stability augmentation system (SAS), providing pitch and roll control, or as SAS plus full auto-



Avidyne's FlightMax EX500

pilot functionality, which includes altitude hold, glideslope acquire and hold, VNAV, LNAV and more.

For more information, contact Chelton Flight Systems at 208-389-9959 or visit www.cheltonfs.com.

Collins

Rockwell Collins released the Version 5.0 upgrade for its popular Pro Line 21 avionics. The upgrade includes wall-to-wall ADI



Rockwell Collins' Pro Line 21 upgrade



Chelton Flight Systems' HeliSAS stability augmentation system

displays — the same format as the new OEM solutions. Version 5.0 also upgrades an IFIS with XM weather to include Nexrad animation, aircraft symbols on weather maps, aircraft symbols on worldwide charts and smart data entry.

For more information, contact Collins at 319-295-1000 or visit www.CollinsAvionics.com.

DAC International

DAC International unveiled its new GEN-X electronic flight bag (EFB) remote processor and GEN-X touch-screen display unit. The GEN-X is operated via an intuitive touch-screen. According to the company, "If you can operate an ATM, you can operate GEN-X Genesis." The system is fully integrated to the aircraft's FMS, so when an airport is selected, those charts are automatically uploaded to the EFB.

For more information, contact DAC International at 512-331-5323 or visit www.dacint.com.



DAC International's GEN-X EFB

Flight Display Systems

Flight Display Systems unveiled its new FD90AID and FD270AID displays. Known as the Flipper, these new flip-up/flip-down displays create panel space for an LCD where there was no room before. The Flipper can display three video sources, including VGA, S-video and com-



Flight Display Systems' Flipper display

posite video, making it ideal for special video and camera information.

For more information, contact Flight Display Systems at 678-867-6717 or visit www.flightdisplay.com.

Garmin

If you have a GDL 69A XM satellite receiver, you'll want the new GRC 10 remote controller. When the GDL 69A is connected to a G1000, GMX 200, GNS 530W or GMS 430W, the GRC 10 gives you or your passengers pushbutton control of the MX entertainment and weather display features, including volume, channel selection by channel, channel selection by category, and more.



Garmin's GRC 10 remote controller

For more information, contact Garmin at 913-397-8200 or visit www.garmin.com.

Icarus Instruments

The new SAM-II from Icarus Instruments couples to an aircraft's current autopilot to provide full roll steering to precisely fly GPS approaches and en-route legs. It also has an aural altitude alerter, which provides pleasant voice alerts about approaching altitude presets or any deviations from preset cruise altitudes. In the event of a system's alert, SAM-II combines an audio notification with a change in the color on the compact display unit.

For more information, contact Icarus Instruments at 301-891-0600 or visit www.samgps.com.



Icarus Instruments' SAM-II module

L-3 Communications Avionics Systems

Designed to bring infrared imaging to a variety of private and business aircraft, the IRIS infrared imaging system uses L-3's proprietary Barium Strontium Titanate (BST) detector technology to turn heat signatures into electronic images. Regardless of darkness, smoke, fog, dust or rain, IRIS shows what's happening in front of the aircraft. The IRIS system is being STC'd on a King Air C90. According to L-3,

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L-3 Avionics Systems' IRIS system

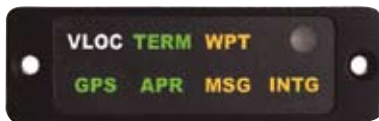
once the STC is completed, other aircraft, including some popular helicopters, will be added.

For more information, contact L-3 Communications Avionics Systems at 800-253-9525 or visit www.L-3Avionics.com.

Mid-Continent Instruments

Mid-Continent Instruments introduced its new MD41 Series WAAS annunciation control unit specifically engineered to work with the Garmin GNS 400W, 430W, 500W and 530W WAAS receivers. The new MD41 gives pilots instant information as to which mode the Garmin WAAS unit is operating. Versions are available with or without integrated CDI and OBS switching capability.

For more information, contact Mid-Continent Instruments at 316-630-0101 or visit www.mcico.com.



Mid-Continent Instruments' MD41 Series WAAS annunciation control unit

PS Engineering

PS Engineering announced a number of new products, including the new PMA7000H audio panel for helicopters. The PMA7000H offers operators a variety of features, including a built-in nine-place intercom, crew PTT intercom capability, CVR



PS Engineering's PMA7000H audio panel

outputs, IntelliVOX, cellular telephone interoperability, multiple independent in-flight entertainment inputs, and dual transmit split audio capability.

For more information, contact PS Engineering at 800-427-2376 or visit www.ps-engineering.com.

Revue Thommen

Revue Thommen brought a variety of new digital repeater instruments to the AEA Convention. These instruments offer shops a source for displaying primary flight data from the aircraft's ARINC 429 data bus. Because they use existing 429 bus information, the repeaters eliminate the need for expensive pressure static sensors. The new repeater instruments include the 2-inch SD21 and 3-inch SD31 airspeed indicators, and the 2-inch AD20 and 3-inch AD30 digital air-data display units.

For more information, contact Revue Thommen at 41-61-965-2222 or visit www.thommen.aero.



Revue Thommen's SD21

Universal Avionics Systems

Universal Avionics Systems announced its new family of



Universal's WAAS-enabled FMS

WAAS-enabled flight management systems, including the UNS-1Lw, UNS-1Ew, UNS-1Epsw and UNS-1Fw. According to Universal, these new WAAS-capable FMS units are ready for operational approval for FAA-published WAAS/LPV approaches to minimums as low as 200 feet and 1/2-mile, along with non-precision and LNAV/VNAV approaches, oceanic, en-route, departure and arrival procedures. For more information, contact Universal Avionics Systems Corp. at 520-295-2300 or visit www.uasc.com.

THE CABIN

AirCell

Highlighting AirCell's offerings is its new data interface unit (DIU), which connects cockpit data management units, including Honeywell's AFIS DMU, to popular ground-based data-link services. The DIU also is provisioned for connectivity to electronic flight bags and AirCell's soon-to-launch, air-to-ground broadband service.

For more information, contact AirCell at 303-379-0271 or visit www.aircell.com.

Avionics Innovations

Avionics Innovations unveiled its new AICD-III AM/FM/CD player, which can be connected to the system's eight-disc CD changer or an aircraft's Sirius satellite receiver. The system includes the first FAA/PMA-approved CD player for aviation. The AICD-III also can play pre-recorded MP3/WMA files and includes an AM/FM tuner with 24-station presets, automatic frequency storage and more.



Avionics Innovations' AICD-III AM/FM/CD player

For more information, contact Avionics Innovations at 760-788-2602 or visit www.avionicsinnovations.com.

Chelton Satcom

Chelton Satcom presented new hardware and antennas that will deliver SwiftBroadband at rates up to seven times faster than Swift64 — which will help bring high-speed broadband and a true “office in the sky” to reality. New products include both single- and multi-channel options, providing a variety of features, such as built-in Ethernet router, Ethernets, ISDN, serial, POTS, cockpit voice and discrete interfaces, as well as data rates up to



Chelton Satcom's SDU

432 Kbps per channel.

For more information, contact Chelton Satcom at 972-221-1783 or visit www.cheltoninc.com.

EMS Satcom

EMS Satcom introduced its new CNX-300 mobile access router, which is the first to offer a Cisco router to the aviation industry to better meet the IT needs of its corporate customers. Designed and built to operate on Inmarsat Swift64 and future SwiftBroadband networks, the CNX-300 provides users with secure voice, data and video communications where dynamic routing, VPN tunnels and AES encryption are required.

For more information, contact EMS Satcom at 800-600-9759 or visit www.emssatcom.com.



EMS Satcom's CNX-300 mobile access router

EMTEQ

EMTEQ's new Elements system allows you to simply and efficiently heat the cushion and back of individual passenger seats in King Airs. The system offers three temperature settings, including “lumbar heat only.” Once the desired temper-



A Beechcraft interior with EMTEQ's Elements seat-heating product.

ature is achieved, the Elements seat heater will maintain it for one hour, then shut itself off automatically as an added safety feature.

For more information, contact EMTEQ at 262-679-6170 or visit www.emteq.com.

Honeywell

Honeywell introduced its new MCS-7100 Series multi-channel satellite communications family of products based on Honeywell's HD-710 IDU. The MCS-7100 family allows for online connections at speeds of 64 Kbps/channel to 432 Kbps/channel. The SwiftBroadband connection provides an “always-on” connection to e-mail, Internet, corporate networks, video conferences and more.



Honeywell's HD-710 IDU

For more information, contact Honeywell at 800-601-3099 or visit www3.BendixKing.com.

International Communications Group

International Communications Group (ICG) announced its latest multi-channel Iridium satcom system, the ICS-400, which provides a full range of in-cabin functions, including intercom calling, call transferring, conferencing, follow-on dialing and voice prompts. The unit also includes ARINC 429 connections and a dedicated short-burst data modem

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for ACARS/AFIS services, as well as a built-in GPS receiver to support automatic flight following services.

For more information, contact ICG at 757-947-1030 or visit www.icg.aero.



ICG's ICS-400 satcom system

Rosen Aviation

Big news for fans of in-flight entertainment, Rosen Aviation premiered its new 24-inch high-definition widescreen cabin display. With a screen resolution of 1920 x 1080, it is designed to meet all future in-flight HD environments, including HD DVD and Blue Ray formats. For ease of installation and integration with in-cabin IFE hardware, the display utilizes composite, component, RGB and DVI/HDMI interfaces, and is available in both an AC and DC version.

For more information, contact Rosen Aviation at 541-342-3802 or visit www.rosenaviation.com.



Rosen Aviation's 24-inch high-definition widescreen cabin display

Sky Connect

Sky Connect announced its solution to the soon-to-be-discontinued MagnaStar airborne telephone system. With this solution, current MagnaStar customers can keep their existing handsets and convert their in-flight radiophone and Internet service quickly and easily. According to Sky Connect, its new solution is light and easy to install — it's just a matter of swapping boxes and adding the compact Sky Connect Iridium antenna.

For more information, contact Sky Connect at 703-404-4400 or visit www.skyconnect.com.



Sky Connect Iridium antenna

Thrane & Thrane

Speed is king in the world of business, so Thrane & Thrane has introduced its new Aero-SB+, delivering up to 432 Kbps of SwiftBroadband service to an aircraft's cabin. The new Aero-SB+ comes with four channels of global communications capabilities, one flight deck data-link channel and up to two dedicated data channels. It also features VoIP connectivity, high-speed Internet, low-cost voice, Ethernet



Thrane & Thrane's Aero-SB+

switch, wireless LAN, built-in WiFi capability, and more.

For more information, contact Thrane & Thrane at +45-29-55-88-00 or visit www.thrane.com.

MAINTENANCE

Lux Aviation Engineering

Lux Aviation Engineering introduced its new-generation main ship and emergency aircraft battery. The Lux main ship battery is an advanced-technology battery design combining the latest state-of-the-art lithium-ion cell technology and solid-state, high-current switching technology. It also features a "triple safety design" with built-in cell balancing, charging and cut-off — the same technology used on the new Boeing 787.

For more information, contact Lux Aviation at 520-881-7100 or visit www.luxaviation.com.



Lux Aviation Engineering's main ship battery

P2 Aviation Technology

Looking for a way to improve your maintenance practices while reducing paperwork? P2 Aviation Technology's new TimeTrac 2.0 software combines advanced software and firmware to automatically collect flight data, including both time-in-service and block-to-block times. The TimeTrac 2.0 software provides owners with ready access to in-service times and more accurate records to improve component life and simplify warranty tracking.



P2 Aviation's TimeTrac 2.0 software

For more information, contact P2 Aviation at 952-472-2577 or visit www.p2inc.com.

Sprague Instruments / Team Aviation Sales

Sprague Instruments' new Gripper makes testing control cable tension a "one-handed" operation. The unit's compact, low-profile design makes it easy to get into confined spaces, such as tails and wings. According to Sprague, the Gripper's digital design eliminates the need to do averaging, so it cuts tension-testing time by 80 percent. The Gripper is available from Team Aviation Sales.

For more information, contact Team Aviation Sales at 800-903-6930 or visit www.teamaviation-sales.com.



Sprague's Gripper is available through Team Aviation Sales.

Trans-Cal Industries

Proof that good things do come in small packages, Trans-Cal Industries unveiled its new Nano encoder. According to Trans-Cal, it measures 2.56 x 1.12 x 3.48 inches and weighs 5.9 oz (for

the 42,000-foot unit), making the Nano the smallest, lightest encoder for general aviation aircraft.

For more information, contact Trans-Cal Industries at 818-787-1221 or visit www.trans-cal.com.



Trans-Cal Industries' Nano encoder

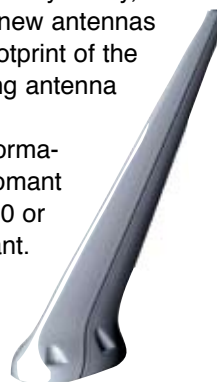
COOL STUFF

Comant

Comant introduced a full line of ComDat WAAS-compliant antennas offering multi-function capabilities, such as VHF communications, WAAS GPS and XM weather — all in one state-of-the-art antenna. Comant offers antennas in a variety of low-profile and blade designs. According to Comant, similarity is key, so each of the new antennas matches the footprint of the aircraft's existing antenna installations.

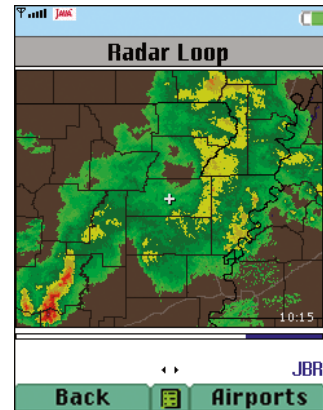
For more information, contact Comant at 714-870-2420 or visit www.comant.com.

Comant's ComDat WAAS-compliant antenna



Garmin

Garmin introduced its new Pilot My-Cast service, which delivers personalized weather briefings to your compatible cell phone or PDA. Garmin's



Garmin's Pilot My-Cast service

Pilot My-Cast allows you to page through surface meteorological reports, terminal forecasts, METARS and moving weather maps, as well as check winds and temperatures — it's cutting-edge weather data delivered in either text or color graphics formats. Garmin's Pilot My-Cast service is compatible with most Get-It-Now and Java-enabled mobile phones.

For more information, contact Garmin at 913-397-8200 or visit www.garmin.com.

Martec Group

You probably don't give much thought to your emergency locator transmitter (ELT), but now you must. On Feb. 1, 2009, COSPAS-SARSAT, will switch to the 406 MHz frequency for the primary emergency locating frequency monitoring — which means most current ELTs will become virtu-

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Martec Group's compact Kannad 406-AF compliant ELT pack

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ally obsolete. To meet this need, Martec introduced the new compact Kannad 406-AF compliant ELT pack. Along with automatic or manual ELT activation, the unit also offers an optional GPS interface that transmits the position of the aircraft, enabling COSPAS-SARSAT to receive both the aircraft's location and identification instantly.

For more information, contact Martec at +33-2-97-02-49-49 or visit www.kannad.com. ■