

MEDIA RELEASE

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Airlines PNG invests PGK 6 Million to install state-of-the-art avionics equipment

The Airlines PNG fleet of Twin Otter (DHC-6) aircraft will undergo a massive avionics upgrade in the coming months as part of the Airline's ongoing commitment to passenger safety in one of the world's toughest flying environments.

This PGK 6 million investment will take the Twin Otter fleet to a whole new level, far exceeding all industry standards and safety requirements. Under the new technology the fleet will meet 'next generation' flight deck standards.

Airlines PNG is currently in discussions with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority of Papua New Guinea (CASA PNG) and avionics manufacturers to finalise the product requirements.

The new flight deck will include the latest technology synthetic vision system providing both pilots on board with an accurate three dimensional picture of terrain around the aircraft, even in cloud or at night (**see pictures below**).

"There is no doubt the rugged terrain in which our pilots fly in presents them with daily challenges, being that PNG is one of the most difficult destinations to fly in. Until now our aircraft have exceeded safety standards and guidelines, but under the new system each aircraft will be given a further avionics boost which will give pilots a whole new suite of capabilities," said Bruce Alabaster, Airlines PNG Chief Operating Officer.

These enhancements will mean Airlines PNG's Twin Otter aircraft are fully fitted with the most modern equipment available. The avionics will also be upgraded to include dual latest standard Global Positioning System units which will avail the aircraft with 18 new approaches within Papua New Guinea, mainly at airfields where there is presently no approach available in bad weather.

Airlines PNG is in discussions with CASA PNG to finalise specifications for the installation of an approved form of *Enhanced Ground Proximity Warning* into the Twin Otter fleet as well. This follows the successful installation of this equipment into the Airline's Dash 8 (DHC-8) fleet.

"To date, no aircraft in the world equipped with this system has been lost due to controlled flight into terrain," Mr Alabaster said.

In addition, Airlines PNG will soon install Quick Access Flight Data Recorders in each of its Twin Otter and Dash 8 aircraft.

"These recorders are already in use by a number of major airlines such as Qantas, Emirates and Air New Zealand. They allow for enhanced monitoring of aircraft flight parameters providing the opportunity for active continuous improvement," Mr Alabaster said.

On top of these initiatives, Airlines PNG has also implemented a number of other safety measures such as amended higher airfield standards.

According to Bruce Alabaster, “Papua New Guinea remains a very challenging aviation environment to operate in. We have some of the toughest terrain and weather conditions in the world and, in many rural areas, infrastructure has not always kept up with the demands of modern aviation. Aviation remains a keystone in the development of PNG, both economically and socially. Airlines PNG remains committed to constantly reviewing its operations with a view to ensuring it has the safest Twin Otter operation in the world which is no small challenge in the context of the environment in which we operate.”

“Despite the ever present rugged conditions we face flying in this territory we are committed to providing a safe and necessary service for the people of PNG and those visiting for business and pleasure. An investment of this magnitude in avionics just shows how committed we are to delivering this and going above and beyond what is required,” he said.

Examples of the upgraded avionics in the Twin Otter fleet:





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