

Caltron

Realistic Flight Simulators

Caltron Customer Spotlight

Flat Panel Displays Help "Training Immersion" Process

Location: Florida, USA Customer: A leading manufacturer of flight training simulators

Flat panel LCD screens are so realistic that they are the "heart" of one of the most trusted professional flight simulation systems on the market.

So says a Caltron customer who manufactures flight simulators in Florida and sells them worldwide.

"These Caltron flat panel displays are the heart of the system," the sales manager told us. "Before we had these, we used to have to rely on the traditional CRT, and we couldn't provide the kind of immersion we do today."

This sales manager is a pilot himself and sells flight-training systems to flight schools, colleges and universities around the world.



Their flight simulator systems come in two basic types, personal computer based systems, which use CRTs and start at \$3,000, and professional systems, which use Caltron LCD displays and start at around \$17,000.



"We sell one of the most respected software packages in the industry," he said.

Flat Panel Display Helps Students Learn To Fly

Location: Appleton, Wisconsin, USA

Here you sit, in the cockpit of a Cessna 182, ready for takeoff.

You are the pilot, and you are ready to go.

The weather is a "pea soup" fog, so thick you could cut it with a *samurai* sword. You have to rely on the instruments, which are all you've got. You can't see a thing out the windows.

Rev the engine, and the tachometer shows 2500 rpm, manifold pressure 28. Adjust your flaps and release the brakes. Off you go, rolling down the runway, into the fog.

Push the throttle, and check the airspeed indicator, and pull back gently on the yoke, and you're off.

You check the artificial horizon line and the altimeter. Attitude and climb rate are A-OK. You are up in the sky, flying.

Really flying.

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The company gained its FAA certification in 1997 and has sold thousands of desktop systems in the past five years and about 60 professional systems in the past two and one-half years.

"The Caltron flat panel displays make the cockpit of the simulator much more realistic, both visually and in the way the instruments respond to the yoke and other controls. Flat panel displays help the simulator fly just like an aircraft," the sales manager said.

This "immersion factor" is vital to pilot training, he added.

"Caltron has helped us enormously. Their products are consistent, sharp and trouble-free. A simulator, like any other system, is only as good as its components. We have been highly satisfied with Caltron.

Caltron flat panel displays have proven to be highly reliable and effective in many different applications. This is only one of them.

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Whew. That's a relief. At least you're off the ground.

But wait a minute. Are you really?

Actually, you are in the cockpit of a flight simulator, and an experienced pilot, Dell Cross, is on the "radio" from a few feet away, giving you flight instructions.

Hey, you say, this is so real I thought I was flying.

That's the whole idea.

Cross, who runs this flight school, is a customer of Caltron Industries, where he bought his LCD flat panel display.

A pilot with 30 years' professional experience, Cross opened the school a couple years ago in his hometown, Appleton, Wisconsin. He started out using a traditional CRT display, but it wasn't realistic enough.

So he asked the advice of the people who manufactured his simulator system, and they recommended a Caltron flat panel display.

"It was like night and day," Cross said.

"When you get in and 'fly' the simulator, you don't know the difference between that and real instruments. The flat panel display is absolutely great."

The liquid crystal display is so real that you probably can't find it in the photo above.

The entire instrument panel is actually shown on an LCD flat panel display. The software and hardware are connected electronically to the simulator's yoke, rubber pedals and throttle, so that these dials and gauges react realistically, as they would during an actual flight.

The simulator flies "exactly like an aircraft," because of the display and the way it interfaces with the hardware and software from the flight simulator company, Cross said.

Cross said it was much easier to install than a CRT, partly because it takes up less space.

Product Details

Caltron has supplied the following monitors to this company: FPT-18140

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