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Flight management
software and hardware for
airborne camera control

Recommended hardware for the Aviatrix flight management system

Overview

Users of the STANDARD Aviatrix flight management system are required to provide some of the hardware for the system. Specifically, the hardware that needs to be supplied is:

- Laptop or tablet computer
- Pilot's display (optional)
- Mounts for tablet PC and/or pilot's display (if required)
- Power supplies for laptop/tablet and pilot's display

Lenovo Thinkpad X250

Choosing between a laptop and a tablet PC

In single pilot operations (assuming that single pilot ops are legally permitted) the client can choose to use either a laptop with an external display, or a tablet PC. Using a tablet PC will mean there are fewer cables in the cockpit (which is always welcome), but it must be ensured that the tablet is small enough to fit inside the cockpit without interfering with any of the flight instruments or flight controls. In two-person operations (pilot and camera operator) the laptop with external monitor is the recommended configuration.

Minimum recommended laptop/tablet specifications

- i5 processor with 8GB RAM and 128GB solid state drive
- Windows 7 Pro, 8.1 or 10 (Windows 10 is preferred)
- At least one available USB port
- VGA port (not required if a tablet PC is used)
- Screen resolution of at least 1366 x 768 pixels, preferably with touch screen functionality

**External pilot's display: Xenarc 802TSV
(touchscreen and daylight readable)**

There are many different laptops that meet these specifications, and it is the responsibility of the user to choose one that is appropriate. Although we don't endorse any specific brand or model, we can confirm that we have had good reliability with Lenovo laptops for many years. Our current preferred Lenovo model is the Thinkpad X250. It not only meets all the above requirements, but it is also small and relatively rugged for a consumer grade laptop.

External pilot's display and mounts

If an external pilot's display is going to be used, then the chosen model should be daylight readable and have a minimum resolution of 800 x 600 pixels. As with laptops we don't make specific recommendations, but our current preferred model is the 8-inch Xenarc 802TSV.

A selection of RAM mounts

Mounting the pilot's display, or the tablet, in the cockpit also needs to be carefully considered. Without doubt, the best mounting brackets currently available are RAM mounts, which offer many different mounting options.