IVEX prepares image generator

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IVEX IS TESTING a prototype of its AeroReality image generator, based on the Silicon Graphics (SGI) Onyx2 InfiniteReality graphics supercomputer.

The AeroReality is intended to be the first SGI-based image generator able to meet the highest commercial-flight-simulation training standard, described as Level D.

The Norcoss, Georgia-based company hopes to complete development by the end of the first quarter of 1998, and is already offering the system for commercial and military contracts requiring Level D performance. IVEX has completed a sample database with Level D scene content and calligraphic-lightpoint capability is "up and running", the company says. Bright, sharp, lightpoints are essential for Level D approval and IVEX is the first to exploit a calligraphic capability newly developed for SGI's InfiniteReality.

The company admits that it has had "teething problems", particularly in exploiting the SGI machine's ability to generate three-dimensional terrain. IVEX says that it has taken advantage of its previous VDS image-generator's ability to produce richly textured, but flat, terrain, rewriting that software for the SGI machine.

The AeroReality's texturing capability is now "working quite well", the company says, and work is under way to develop the weather and lighting effects required for Level D qualification.   ❏

Hughes wins Danish ATC training deal

HUGHES TRAINING'S UK arm has won an $8 million contract to supply Denmark's civil-aviation administration with an air-traffic-control (ATC) training system for installation at its Copenhagen Airport academy.

The system will include 34 radar-simulator positions, five aerodrome trainers and an ATC visual tower simulator. The contract marks the first major order for Hughes' new FIRSTplus training system.

The tower simulator will have workstations for two controllers and one assistant, linked to four pseudo-pilot positions. A visual system will project out-of-the-window scenes of Copenhagen Airport on a 270°-wide display.

The academy trains civil and military controllers to handle Danish and Greenland airspace. Academy chief Per Hanson says that use of the new FIRSTplus system will range from part-task training to fully integrated air-traffic-management exercises.

■ Hughes Training and Lufthansa Technical Training are to pursue technical and customer-service training opportunities with airlines, maintenance organisations, manufacturers and suppliers, focusing on support of Airbus, Boeing, Bombardier and Douglas aircraft.   ❏

BAe buys Australian Aviation College

BRITISH AEROSPACE Training Services has acquired the Adelaide-based Australian Aviation College from BTR-owned Hawker de Havilland.

The purchase, for an undisclosed sum, places Australia's two biggest training organisations under full BAe control, following the UK company's acquisition of Ansett's 50% stake in the Tamworth, New South Wales-based Australian Air Academy.

The two colleges' will between them have a combined capacity of almost 500 students, and a fleet of 80 aircraft, and will employ 180 staff. Both establishments have strong contracts with Asian carriers, as well as doing considerable work for African, Australian, Middle Eastern and UK airlines. The Tamworth centre also has a growing military-training business.   ❏

BMA picks TTS simulator for A320

BRITISH MIDLAND (BMA) has selected Thomson Training & Simulation (TTS) to supply an Airbus A320 full-flight simulator, to support its purchase of 20 A320/A321s. The device is scheduled to be installed alongside a TTS-produced Boeing 737 simulator at the airline's training centre in late 1998.

CAE Electronics, meanwhile, has sold a Boeing 737-700/800 full-flight simulator to SBG of Mönchengladbach, Germany, a joint venture between the airport authority and RWL, which already operates a CAE-built 737-300/400/500 simulator. The device will be delivered at the end of 1998.

The British Midland A320 simulator will be equipped with an Evans & Sutherland ESIG-3350 visual system. CAE, meanwhile, has been selected by FedEx to supply two MaxVue Plus visual systems, with an option to purchase additional units.   ❏

BA awards pilot-training contracts

BRITISH AIRWAYS is moving some *ab initio* pilot-training out of Australia and into the USA, while renewing contracts with two UK-based training colleges. The airline says that considerations were "overall cost-effectiveness, but also quality and reliability".

The US contract-winner is the Western Michigan University's new International Pilot Training Centre, while UK establishments Cabair College of Air Training and Oxford Air Training School won contract renewals. The Australian Aviation College, Adelaide, will not have its two-year contract renewed when the last of its BA students graduate, says the carrier. BA explains that it likes to monitor its own students' progress, and Australia's distance from UK has made that costly. UK-based colleges have higher fees, but lower monitoring and final-testing costs have enabled them to compete, BA says, revealing that failure rates are the lowest it has ever achieved.   ❏

SIMONA research simulator takes shape at Delft

EVANS & SUTHERLAND has agreed to provide a visual system for Delft University of Technology's SIMONA research flight-simulator, which is now taking shape in the Netherlands. A three-channel "state-of-the-art" visual will be provided for the simulator, which is being assembled with industry support. The composite "shuttle", which houses the flightdeck, has now been mounted on the high-performance six-axis motion base, and a 777 instrument panel and centre console, provided by Boeing, are being installed. The simulator will be moved to a purpose-designed building early in 1998, ready to receive the wrap-around visual system.