



Simulation Technology – An Airline Perspective

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Brian Watt, Head of Crew Training, Flybe Ltd

Flight simulators were developed, primarily, to teach pilots about their aircraft without risk of physical injury or a costly mistake. Capt Ray Jones addressed this requirement from the perspective of an airline and its requirements and thus helped establish the now invaluable role of flight simulation in training.



Technology has moved on and the industry has acquired new drivers. International guidelines now exist to standardise simulator classification and many new technologies are being used to improve fidelity of visual and motion systems, as well as COTS equipment to reduce unit costs. The latest generation of simulators can even drive key development areas in the aircraft they simulate.

What role, now, are airline operators expected to play and what do those operators expect from their investment in simulators? Do current simulators allow the most effective training design and necessary suspension of disbelief? Is there clear enough feedback from the line to the designers and to whom are those designers listening?

This is a presentation of one airline's view. The aim is to stir debate and to offer alternative perspectives at a time of rapid progress in both technology and international safety initiatives.

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Brian Watt is currently the post holder responsible for Crew Training and the TRTO at Flybe. The airline has around 700 pilots and 800 cabin crew in 14 bases covering two fleets, the Bombardier Dash 8 Q400 and the Embraer 195. A new Flybe Training Academy building, due for completion in December, will include a four bay simulator facility.

Brian began his flying career as an ab-initio instructor before moving to the airlines in 1989. Though starting at Air Europe, Brian has remained in the regional and short haul sector flying for Manx Airlines which, through mergers and reincarnations, finally became BA Connect. He has been an airline Training Captain for 13 years and 10 of those as a TRE. A move to Flybe in 2006, as Head of Training, was followed by the acquisition of Brian's former employer which presented him with the challenge of leading the integration of two large and very diverse training organisations.

Flybe is partner operator to the first two MPL courses in the UK and is helping lead the campaign for recognition of the status of airline pilots as a vocational qualification deserving of the funding opportunities open to other professions.

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This Lecture has been organised by the Royal Aeronautical Society's Flight Simulation Group in Memory of Capt Ray Jones. The Lecture will take place at No.4 Hamilton Place, London W1J 7BQ. Commencing at 18:00hrs, refreshments will be served from 17:30hrs. An Evening Reception will take place following the Lecture.

For further details visit www.aerosociety.com/conference

FREE TO ATTEND

All Visitors Welcome

RSVP is appreciated:
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