

NEWS RELEASE - HELI-EXPO 2008

Hospital GNSS IFR Approach – Bern, Switzerland: Hickok & Associates develops helicopter RNAV GNSS instrument approach to Insel-Spital hospital

The first helicopter GNSS Instrument Approach Procedure to a hospital heliport in Europe using ICAO Pans-Ops criterion with a visual segment has been developed by Hickok & Associates, Inc., to the Insel-Spital hospital in Bern, Switzerland, for Swiss Air Ambulance, Ltd (“*rega*”).

Hickok travelled to Bern to complete onsite work, which included an assessment of the hospital heliport, obstacle data collection, development of the helicopter GNSS RNAV procedure, coordination with the Swiss Federal Office of Civil Aviation (FOCA) and Swiss Air Navigation Services, Ltd. (Skyguide), and day and night validation flights using a *rega* EC-145 helicopter.

Edwin D. McConkey, Senior Engineer and Technical Director, Hickok & Associates, Inc., developed the modifications to include Pans-Ops helicopter GNSS criteria in the company’s procedure development software tools, which Hickok used onsite in Bern to design the procedure.

Following the work onsite, Hickok returned to the United States, finalized the procedure package, and submitted the procedure to Skyguide. The procedure report titled “*HELIOS*” was prepared by Skyguide using the procedure submitted by Hickok, cross-checked by Skyguide, and forwarded to FOCA. FOCA signed and released the *HELIOS* report documenting the instrument procedure in September, 2007. Since September *rega* has been meeting with FOCA and Skyguide to finalize their operational approval and begin IFR using the procedure; which is anticipated in mid-2008.

“This is the first GNSS procedure, and the first helicopter IFR procedure to a heliport, in Switzerland,” says Hickok. “*Rega* has needed to coordinate many things with FOCA and Skyguide to establish new policy, coordinate new airspace and air traffic control procedures, and FOCA approval to begin using GNSS for IFR flight operations within Switzerland.”

About the ICAO Criteria Used: The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) approved into “*Procedures for Air Navigation Services — Aircraft Operations*” (PANS-OPS) “*Area Navigation (RNAV) Point-in-Space (PinS) Approach Procedures for Helicopters Using Basic GNSS Receivers*” several years ago.

About Hickok & Associates, Inc: Stephen M. Hickok, President, Hickok & Associates, Inc., has worked as project manager, chief investigator, or advisor on every helicopter GPS/GNSS criterion and policy since the early 1990’s. He became the first non-fed developer of instrument approaches to submit completed procedures to FAA, the first airman designated by FAA as a Procedure Evaluation Pilot (PEP), and has been developing helicopter GPS IFR approaches longer than any other developer in the world.

Visit **Hickok & Associates at Booth 1330 at Heli-Expo 2008**, in Houston, TX

For more information on this story - **Hickok & Associates has scheduled a Press Conference at Heli-Expo, 3 pm Sunday, February 24, in the HAI Press Room.**

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