

NAV CANADA

XMU+ DELIVERS IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO PILOTS AT AIRPORT CONTROL TOWERS ACROSS CANADA



Overview:

NAV CANADA has purchased 100 Interalia XMU+ systems to replace older recording devices that provide weather and runway information to pilots at control towers across Canada. These systems offload routine communication tasks that otherwise would have to be performed by air traffic controllers.

Problems:

NAV CANADA had various Automatic Terminal Information Service (ATIS) recorders from Interalia (MMUs), Cardion (the DGI 8203) and other vendors that were at least 20-25 years old. These units were becoming difficult and costly to maintain because replacement parts were no longer readily available.

Requirements/Objectives:

To meet NAV CANADA's requirements Interalia had to overcome numerous obstacles during the two-year project. First, the new recorders had to fit into the existing consoles so Interalia had to custom-make the XMU+ boxes to fit. Second, NAV CANADA wanted the new boxes to plug into the old consoles using the existing cables so Interalia had to create an adapter cable that enabled this to happen. Third, sites across the country have different ways of keying information into the radio, so Interalia custom-made a new recorder that accommodated all the different configurations. Fourth, Interalia made a custom plate and handset holder. And finally, the XMU+ systems had to connect to UHF and VHF radios and also work with the existing phone systems. Interalia even set up a labeling system to allow NAV CANADA to easily enter the product into their electronic work-order entry database.

Solution:

NAV CANADA purchased 100 Interalia XMU+ systems to replace the older units at their control towers across Canada. Interalia overcame the obstacles and the XMU+ units were simply plugged into the consoles where the older recorders used to be.

Benefits:

The new XMU+ units save NAV CANADA money, increase productivity, reduce staff workload, and make it easier to configure and maintain ATIS units across the country.

Ed Blaser (Technical Specialist, Flight Information Services Automation) at NAV CANADA says, "The XMU+ does the job - it meets our requirements for a recording device, providing controllers with efficiency gains and more time to focus on other responsibilities within the Control Tower environment. Interalia did everything to help us out and ensure the project went as smoothly as possible. They have provided us with competitive pricing and service, and continue to provide excellent customer service and support."

NAV CANADA:

NAV CANADA co-ordinates safe and efficient movement of aircraft within all Canadian domestic airspace and international airspace under Canadian control. NAV CANADA has 5,300 employees across Canada providing: air traffic control, flight information, weather briefings, aeronautical information, electronic navigation aids and airport advisory services. It has seven area control centers, 41 control towers, 60 flight service stations and eight flight information centers within Canada supported by a network of over 1,000 ground-based navigation aids.

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