



15 October 2009

Dear RA-Aus members,

The University of Western Sydney (UWS) and Central Queensland University (CQU) researchers (Dr Jim Mitchell and Mr Ron Bishop respectively) are conducting research into pilots' perceptions of advanced cockpit systems in light aircraft. This research is based on similar research conducted by National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA) in the United States of America. The Recreational Aviation Australia Inc (RA-Aus) has agreed to participate in the research by making the survey available online through the website. The survey will take approximately 25-30 minutes to complete.

Advanced technology has been in operation in military aviation and commercial large jets for over twenty years. More recently, manufacturers of light aircraft have been incorporating an increasing range of high technology applications into the cockpits of recreational and small commercial aircraft. This includes the retrofitting of 'glass cockpits' to older aircraft.

The aim of the research is to ascertain the perceptions of pilots of light aircraft into the introduction of the glass cockpit. Research into the perceptions of the pilots of large jet aircraft highlight the general acceptance of the benefits of high technology but also continue to raise doubts in its application. To date, little research has been applied to pilots of light aircraft. The research will provide a greater understanding of the issues pilots have concerning light aircraft glass cockpits. This research can lead to identification of training needs and concerns about safety.

The survey can be found on the RA-Aus website under "Advanced Cockpit Survey" on the Notice Board section. Participation in the survey is entirely voluntary and if filling in the survey you can withdraw at anytime. However incomplete surveys will be retained but not included in the analyses. You cannot be identified individually and the data will be aggregated for analyses. The data will be securely stored and retained for five years. An aim is to have the results published in an aviation journal. The results will also be made available to AOPA and placed on the website.

It is recommended that this information page be printed and retained for you to seek clarification during completion of the survey. If you have any questions about the survey you can contact either Jim Mitchell at UWS (02 4620 3316 or j.mitchell@uws.edu.au) or Ron Bishop at CQU (07 4150 7167 or r.bishop@cqu.edu.au).

Thank you for your participation.



Jim Mitchell
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Ron Bishop
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NOTE: This study has been approved by the University of Western Sydney and Central Queensland University Human Research Ethics Committees. If you have any complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of this research, you may contact the UWS Ethics Committee through the Research Ethics Officers (tel: 02 4736 0883 or email humanethics@uws.edu.au). Please quote Protocol No. HEC H7376 in all correspondence. Similarly, Central Queensland University's Human Research Ethics Committee can be contacted on 07 4923 2603 or email ethics@cqu.edu.au. Please quote Approval No H09/07-044. Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully, and you will be informed of the outcome.