

EGTS Pilot Days

Honeywell and Safran joint venture EGTS International organized its first “Pilot Days” session in Toulouse on March 5-6, offering 30 pilots an exclusive test drive of an A320 equipped with the EGTS electric taxiing system prototype.

Following its official premiere demonstration at the Paris Air Show in June 2013, the EGTS program reached another major milestone last week in Toulouse with the successful completion of its first Pilot Days conference. The event gave pilots an early opportunity to evaluate the operational advantages of EGTS by testing the system prototype in real runway conditions.



JV Vice Presidents Olivier Savin (Safran) and Brian Wenig (Honeywell) opened the session with an overview of the concept and design approach, followed by Safran test pilot Jens Berlinson, who briefed both A320 and 737-qualified pilots on the system’s operational procedures.

Conference momentum then shifted to nearby Air France Industrie runways, where each of the pilots took turns testing the system, through of series of maneuvers such as breakaway, reverse taxiing and tight turns, with the main engines turned off.

In parallel, Honeywell test pilot Roger Moore facilitated a series of workshops to evaluate pilot feedback and gather input on the EGTS prototype’s performance characteristics.

Pilot and airline input at the end of the two-day session were very positive, providing valuable feedback in terms of system assessment, but also confirming a strong operational and market interest in the system.

Attendees included representatives from the following airlines: AeroMexico, Air France, ANA, Condor, Delta Airlines, Dragonair, easyJet, Etihad, GoAir, IndiGo, Interjet, Lufthansa, Norwegian Air Shuttle, Oman Air, Pegasus Airlines, Sichuan Airlines, Turkish Airlines and Tyrolean Airways.