FORWARD FACING

EUROPEAN FLYERS: ADVANCING INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN AIRLINE PILOT TRAINING

Selecting the most appropriate training tools is always a challenge, as technology evolves at an ever-increasing pace. Understanding the context is also important so that the training tools match the task.

A discussion of the background helps to illustrate the shape of the requirement and the path to choosing the appropriate tool. With that in mind, **Luis Miñano Gómez** sets the scene with a brief comment on the goals of his training organisation.

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"Founded in 1991, **European Flyers** is a leading aeronautical training school with a proven track record in Spain, dedicated to shaping the next generation of aviation professionals. We offer comprehensive training programmes across fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters and drones, combining rigorous technical instruction with the real-world competencies that define exceptional pilots: sound decision-making, proactive risk management and the ability to perform with confidence in complex, high-pressure environments.

Our approach goes beyond the cockpit. We believe that true pilot readiness is built on a foundation of both precision and adaptability, qualities we cultivate from day one. Whether you are taking your first steps in aviation or advancing toward a professional licence, European Flyers provides the expertise, infrastructure and mentorship to help you reach your full potential."

european flyers
flight training centre
Airplane · Helicopter · UAS

European Flyers was established with the ambition of offering high-quality training, closely aligned with the operational realities of the sector. Over the years, we have evolved constantly, expanding our capabilities, our fleet and our team. A recent milestone has been the acquisition of Aerotec, which has allowed us to grow in scale, double our capacity and strengthen our market presence, while retaining the talent and experience of its team.

Now expanded to three separate bases, each base plays a strategic role within our model. Madrid, at Cuatro Vientos, will remain our main operational centre and training hub. Mutxamel is currently undergoing an ambitious growth plan with new infrastructure, accommodation and services, aiming to become a benchmark hub in the Valencian Community. And Seville, following the integration of Aerotec, is positioned as a key location for southern Spain, with strong development potential thanks to its favorable climate.

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SIMULATORS

Simulators are a key component of modern flight training, helping to improve safety, efficiency and training quality. Consequently, they have been an integral part of pilot training for many years, but in our case we took a step forward when we recognized the need to enhance training quality and adapt to an increasingly demanding environment in terms of safety and efficiency.

State-of-the-art simulators provide a safe, controlled and highly reproducible training environment, where students can face complex situations that cannot always be recreated in real flight. They improve training quality, increase safety and make training more efficient. Simulators allow manoeuvres to be repeated, procedures to be practised and critical situations to be trained very effectively. We also sought to optimise resources and improve student progression.

SELECTION

Selecting the right simulator requires careful evaluation of different factors. We carried out a market analysis, evaluating different manufacturers and solutions based on our specific needs as an ATO (Approved Training Organisation).

Key selection criteria included simulator fidelity, reliability, versatility across different phases of training and, of course, value for money. We also placed great importance on technical support and product development.

ALSIM

ALSIM offered a highly balanced solution, particularly suited to schools like ours. **Its technology, the flexibility of its simulators and its experience in training were key factors.**

I would highlight ALSIM's versatility and ability to adapt the simulator to different training profiles, as well as system reliability and the support provided. It met our expectations both technically and operationally.

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airliner AND aLX

The decision to select the **Airliner** and the **ALX** was based on covering the full training arc in a coherent and progressive way.

The **ALX** is a key tool in the initial and intermediate phases. It allows students to acquire procedures, automatisms and confidence before progressing to more advanced stages and it handles the foundational and intermediate stages extremely well, offering flexibility across different training profiles.

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The **Airliner,** on the other hand, was selected specifically for the final phase, where students need to transition from general flying skills to the operational reality of a commercial cockpit — multi-crew procedures, airline-standard workflows and higher-complexity scenarios. Together, they create a natural progression rather than a gap between basic training and professional readiness.

During the selection process several factors stood out. First, the quality of the cockpit environment itself — the level of realism in the instrumentation and interface gives students a genuine sense of operating in a professional airline setting, which matters enormously at that stage of training. Second, the simulator's capacity to replicate complex operational scenarios: instrument failures, adverse weather, non-standard procedures — situations that are difficult or impossible to train safely in a real aircraft. Third, the flexibility to configure different training scenarios without extensive setup time, which is critical when you are managing a high volume of students. And finally, the fact that it integrates naturally with the progression from the ALX, so there is no disconnect in the training experience.

Together these two simulators form a structural part of the training plan, they are integrated into different phases of training, combined with real aircraft instruction which cover basic procedures to more advanced training in navigation, emergencies and airline operations.

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

The implementation process involved close coordination with the supplier to define requirements, logistics, installation and instructor training, and overall, it has been a satisfactory process. There is always room for improvement, but the experience has been positive. The challenges were timing coordination and integration into the training schedule without affecting operations.

These simulators will bring a clear improvement in training quality, greater efficiency and better student preparation by enabling the training of critical situations without risk and optimising the use of resources, resulting in more robust training. They are key to our growth and internationalisation strategy and allow us to offer more competitive training on a global level.

To other training organisations considering investing in simulators, we would say that simulation is now essential for delivering high-quality training.

After graduation our students move into different areas of the sector: commercial airlines, business aviation, aerial work or emergency services, particularly in the case of helicopters. We work with highly motivated students, increasingly international, who are looking for solid training with strong employability prospects. In this regard, European Flyers facilitates entry into the job market through agreements with leading airlines.

WOULD YOU RECOMMEND ALSIM AND WHY?

Yes — due to the reliability of its equipment, its suitability for the training environment and the quality of support provided.

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