Avionics at Aeromotive

Offering a complete aircraft service experience is a key commitment from Aeromotive Limited. The Hamilton based maintenance and repair workshop has recently added an avionics capability with two dedicated staff to its already extensive aircraft maintenance business.

ENGINEERING Manager Brett Puddle says that significant advantages are now to be had in completing inspection work in house where previously such work as 24 month radio inspections had to be outsourced. An advantage particularly with regular inspection items, is that work doesn't get out of phase with other inspections and therefore there is less downtime to the operator.

Phil discusses a Cessna 172 radio installation characteristic with Sammy. A full panel rebuild for this aircraft was undertaken in the Aeromotive workshop.

Outfitted with a dedicated air controlled environment, the Aeromotive avionics bay is located off the main workshop floor. This facility also handles all tool calibration for the Aeromotive operation and is also able to calibrate tooling for other clients.

Experienced People

While the Aeromotive avionics capability is relatively new it has some specific expertise. As well as satisfying nearby CTC Flight Training requirements it also has capability to cover RNZAF maintenance contracts which are carried out at Ohakea, primarily on the PAC CT4E fleet.

Currently staffing the avionics bay are Adam Seumanutafa (Sammy), who has returned to aviation following a sojourn in the UK commissioning electrical modifications for a rail transport company. From initial training with the RNZAF, he has extensive experience on P3 Orion systems. Sammy is a licenced Avionics engineer having achieved his licence and ratings within 18 months.

Joining Sammy is Philip Hutchings. He has recent extensive experience in narrow bodied airliners but his real expertise comes with more than 10 years of test flight development in South Africa. This work was primarily associated with prototype and telemetry installations. Philip is South African Air Force trained and is currently converting his South Afican LAME status to the New Zealand requirements.

Services Offered

Phil's experience in wiring loom modifications compliments Sammy's systems background and with a combined ability to research any problems arising, the pair are well able to find solutions and implement them. The bay is moving towards more installation work to make best use of this experience and is currently seeking a number of distributorships for systems and allied components.

While aircraft operating under regular transport certification rules are well catered for, there are services which GA and recreational aircraft owners tend to over look. Aeromotive can undertake mandatory 24 month radio inspections, ELT and transponder inspections, along with associated minor defect rectification. A 406 MHz ELT is available on loan while customer units are being repaired.

Phil has upped the ante on inspection within the static system and particularly in chasing down leaks. "A little attention here to this simplest of systems has benefits for all concerned. Not only does the aircraft have a better service history, but the chances of a premature instrument overhaul diminish without foreign bodies entering the system and causing erroneous readings. While any rules governing such systems state the minimum requirement, having confidence in your system benefits not only the aircraft but also means there are no surprises for the owner/operator."

Avionics on larger aircraft are readily catered for when booked for service and inspection under Aeromotive's Part 145 certification. Currently the coverage extends from the Warbirds DC3 through to Beech B200 King Airs. Aeromotive has avionics engineers in Ohakea looking after CT4s and B200s. Offsite work is also possible throughout the wider region including Bay of Plenty, north of Auckland and south beyond Waitomo.

For more information

Contact Brett Puddle on 07 843 3199, email: brett.puddle@aeromotive.co.nz or visit www.aeromotive.co.nz