

PRESS RELEASE 21.04.06

BRITISH COMPANY TO REVOLUTIONISE SAFETY IN THE SKIES

A British avionics firm has beaten rivals world wide to a “holy grail” of aircraft safety. Global success seems certain for Kinetic Avionics and their Lightweight Aviation SSR Transponder (LAST) and Low Power SSR Transponder (LPST) – the perfect solution to ensuring the visibility of small aircraft in ever crowded skies around the world. Kinetic Avionics will launch the LAST and LPST to the public at Fly! The London Air Show on 21 April.

The transponder, which emits signals and responds to ground based radar, was designed to improve air safety by staff at London based Kinetic Avionics, many of whom are helicopter pilots. Following a fatal accident which took place over Hertfordshire in 2004, near where Kinetic operates an office, the team immediately set about designing a low cost, lightweight, portable and battery powered Mode-A/C/S with ADSB transponder. The product range is light enough to wear on the body, making it ideal for aviators ranging from Microlight, Ultralight, gliders, balloonist and parachutists.

Mode A/C are traditional technologies which allow radar operators to pinpoint aircraft but not identify them without talking to pilots directly. Mode S allows radar operators to know who an aircraft is directly as each aircraft is assigned a unique code by the authorities.

ADSB can tell an operator where an aircraft is without the need for radar. Large worldwide airports have expensive primary radar but an increasing number of local airports and airfields are beginning to invest in secondary radar with significant cost savings. Mode-S with ADSB will allow even small and unsophisticated airfields to operate with increased situational awareness. With further developments underway in aircraft avionics, the ability for pilots themselves to fly with an all round awareness of other aircraft is not only on the cards, but spells out a far safer future for global aviation.

Said David Goodman, Kinetic Avionics CEO: “Aviation bodies across the world have been crying out for a low cost transponder to increase levels of safety within the General Aviation market. Safety has always been, and continues to be, of paramount importance to all involved in aviation. The UK CAA have made great efforts to assist us and visitors to the CAA Safety Regulation Group offices are greeted by a plaque bearing the words “Safety is no accident”. A clear demonstration of their ethos.

Flying schools and airfields with a limited budget can now afford to equip their aircraft with the latest technology and continue to provide and improve training and operational safety for their pilots.”

“With the correct combination of our products, non-radar airfields can now keep track of first time solo fliers and get early warning of potential traffic problems. Our endeavour is that collisions between any aircraft should be consigned to history. Essentially, the launch of LAST & LPST will lead to increased safety, improved efficiency and millions of pounds in savings for the entire aviation industry.”

The launch of the LAST comes at a time when there is huge demand from global air traffic control corporations for a transponder of this type to improve the situational awareness of private aircraft in the skies.

Interest has also been expressed by military and government organisations who aim to co-ordinate safe flying between military and civilian flights and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

When coupled with low cost radar receivers, such as the Kinetic Avionics SBS-1, awareness becomes low cost and accessible.

Said Nicky Rowland from Fly! The London Air Show “We believe there has already been an enthusiastic reception from flying schools for this product and expect huge interest when it is demonstrated for the first time at Fly! We are incredibly proud that a British company will be making the skies around the world a lot safer.”

(619 Words)

NOTE TO EDITORS

The Kinetic Avionic Products Limited L.A.S.T / L.P.S.T is a lightweight, battery/aircraft powered Level 2 Mode A/C/S transponder with ADS-B designed in accordance with the ED-102, ED-73B and ED-115 standards.

Kinetic Avionic Products Limited specialises in the design, development and deployment of innovative products for the avionics and aviation community. KAPL is umbrellaed as part of an ISO 9001-2000 company group with a global customer base and has designed, developed and deployed state-of-the-art avionics within the UK and overseas territories.

The use of state-of-the-art technology allows KAPL to produce compact, advanced and highly reliable, industry compliant solutions. Embracing the latest technological advances is a key part of the ethos. Specialised teams of engineers, programmers and technicians work together to innovate pioneering and cost effective products.

KAPL are designers and manufacturers of the SBS-1 Real-time Virtual Radar, SBS-2 Professional Mode-S/ADS-B Receiving Station, SBS-2M Mode-S/ADS-B Receiving Station with multilateration and the KAPL Lightweight Aviation SSR Transponder (L.A.S.T/L.P.S.T)