



Blackhawk[™]
Worldwide Aircraft Performance Enhancements

PRESS RELEASE

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Blackhawk PT6A-61 Engines Pivotal in South African “Extreme Makeover”

Like the proverbial Phoenix rising from the ashes, the King Air 200 “Extreme Makeover” gave the popular turboprop new life. Only this bird is a proud Blackhawk, zooming high into the skies of South Africa with its new, super-fast XPR₆₁ Blackhawk engines!

“As proud distributors for Blackhawk in Africa, NAC’s Valued Added Products department specializes in King Air upgrades offering a complete tip to tail solutions,” say Martin Banner, NAC CEO. “NAC’s comprehensive portfolio of leading enhancement products, complimented by an impressive array of services and capabilities, combine to represent a powerful value proposition.”

BSA Aviation, based in Pretoria, South Africa, knew there was lots of quality life left in the 1970’s era King Air 200 they purchased in Nigeria, and they were betting on the power and performance of Blackhawk’s engine upgrade. The airframe was in good shape considering her age, the interior pretty shabby after years of flying in Africa. The engines were worn out and the avionics antiquated.

Custom ZS-BHK Registration

The King Air was given a custom registration as ZS-BHK, designating her as the first King Air 200 in South Africa to be retrofitted with the powerful Blackhawk PT6A-61 engines. The plane was flown to Blackhawks’ distributor National Airways Corporation (NAC) at Lanseria Airport in South Africa for its “extreme makeover.”



ZS-HBK designates this King Air 200 as the first plane in South Africa to sport the powerful Blackhawk PT6A-61 engine upgrade.

Under the cowling, without requiring any airframe modification, NAC installed the factory-new Blackhawk Super XPR₆₁ engines, giving the King Air the power to soar in the typically hot conditions of South Africa. This unseen and undercover part of the “extreme makeover” was the cornerstone of the entire refurbishment.

Blackhawk Modifications, based in Waco, Texas, is the leading provider of engine upgrades for turbine powered aircraft. Blackhawk has the largest non OEM engine contract ever signed with Pratt & Whitney, with over 220 engine sets equipped world-wide. The engines are priced based on the Pratt exchange program and generous credit is issued for time remaining to overhaul on core engines.

The added performance and value of Blackhawk Super XPR₆₁ engines has made this the fastest selling and most popular engine upgrade in the world.

First PT6A-61 Engines in Africa

Justin Heine, BSA Aviation Project Director and company pilot with over 1700 hours, raved about the increased power of the Blackhawk Super XPR₆₁ engine upgrade: “It was pretty exciting and ground-breaking to test fly the new product, since it was the first in Africa to be fitted with the new PT6A-61 engines. From the test flight, it was quite apparent that this was no ordinary King Air.”



BSA Aviation Project Director Justin Heine (L) and Riaan Swart, CEO Business Solutions Africa, beam proudly after the testflight of their super fast refurbished Blackhawk King Air Super XPR₆₁.



Proudly displaying its custom registration number, ZS-BHK, and the Blackhawk on the tail, this state of the art retrofitted King Air is the first of its kind in Africa.

To round out the performance package, NAC added Raisbeck's EPIC package of quiet turboprop propellers, Ram air recovery system, leading edges and dual aft body strakes. This gave ZS-BHK the capability to take off from the most demanding South African airstrips. The installation of the Alliant EFIS avionics suite brought the flight deck up to modern standards as did the state of the art Garmin radio package. The interior was completely gutted and renovated and the exterior custom painted, including the Blackhawk decal prominently displayed.

Performance and Value

Heine continued: "Investors seeking performance, safety and something 'extra' will be interested in our brand of King Air, rather than spending \$5.5 million on a brand new B200GT. We are offering a better aircraft, at half the price—but with the same warranties as a new plane."

Jim Allmon, Blackhawk's President and CEO, praised the new ZS-BHK: "This 'extreme makeover' is exactly the kind of thing Blackhawk excels at. We're excited to bring this opportunity to BSA and the many other King Air operators in Africa. Our world-wide Blackhawk family keeps growing because our engines give King Airs 'better than new' performance. The value is unbeatable." He continued, "We're very pleased at how Blackhawk's distributor, NAC, handled this outstanding conversion."

Heine is enthusiastic about BSA Aviation's future with the new Blackhawk plane in Africa: "Already there is much hype here in South Africa about this new product. We are

very keen to rebuild more aircraft to match the standards that we have set out to achieve. We anticipate another two or three builds in 2009."

Please contact Blackhawk @ 254-755-6711 for delivery schedule details.

About Blackhawk Modifications: Blackhawk Modifications is the leading turboprop aircraft engine upgrade company in the world specializing in King Air 90 and 200 series aircraft as well as Conquest I, Cheyenne and Caravan series. Headquartered in Waco, Texas, Blackhawk has now equipped over 220 turboprop aircraft with the Pratt & Whitney XP engine upgrade since 2000 and continues to certify new engine upgrades and value adding enhancements designed to increase the usefulness and safety of the turboprop fleet. Visit Blackhawk at www.blackhawk.aero

About NAC: National Airways Corporation, established in 1946, is the largest general aviation company in Africa and one of the largest of its kind in the world. NAC offers a full range of aviation services and products to the fixed wing and helicopter markets, specializing in aircraft sales, aircraft maintenance, avionics, parts, charter, flight operations and pilot training. From its headquarters at Lanseria Airport in Johannesburg, NAC operates a South African network of offices in Cape Town, Durban, Rand Airport in Johannesburg and Pretoria, with branches further a field in Africa in Botswana, Angola and Kenya and internationally. Visit NAC at www.nac.co.za