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FLYING Smarter

Blackhawk King Air XP

Isn't it a great time to own an aircraft? You have far more choices than ever before in aircraft models, you can fly safer thanks to hi-tech aircraft and new accessory products, and you have the freedom to fly virtually anywhere thanks to an upgraded GPS system.

As flying entered its second century last year, the availability of new products that increase performance and utility spawned a dramatic increase in demand. According to the General Aviation Manufacturers Association, the demand for new pistons, turboprops, and business jets increased across the board during 2004. Shipments climbed 10% over 2003's numbers and new aircraft billings jumped 19.1%.

As the popularity of general and business aviation continues to grow,

so does the value of new products and services. For newcomers and seasoned pilots alike, a treasure chest of aftermarket products is available to ensure their flights are the best they can be. To help you make prudent choices, our fourth annual **Flying Smarter** supplement showcases quality products from some of the industry's most respected names.

Upgrading Performance

While many ways exist to squeeze performance from an engine, sometimes the solution is to get a new engine or in the opinion of Blackhawk Modifications, Inc., a new and different engine.

Blackhawk sells three modifications that inject new power into the Piper Cheyenne I and II, Cessna Conquest 425 and Beechcraft King Air C90, C90A/B and E90 by exchanging their original turboprops with new Pratt & Whitney 750-shp PT6A-135As. Blackhawk XP upgrades deliver speed increases of 30 to 50 knots (depending on aircraft model), climb times reduced nearly in half and single-engine service ceiling boosts to 21,000 feet.

"We have completed 27 Conquest conversions since 2000 and 32 King Air conversions since 2003," says Jim Allmon, Blackhawk's President.

"Our King Air conversions, in particular, are well-liked because they do



Power Flow is STC'd for Cessna 172s

so much for the airplane, as evidenced by the number of King Air XPs we've done in a short period. The XP performance upgrade makes the King Air 90 series a much more mountain-capable airplane. It can operate more safely at high-altitude airports, and its hot-and-high performance is much improved. The King Air XP develops sea-level

horsepower (550) up to 17,000 feet and the Conquest I develops 450 shp up to 24,000 feet." The

Blackhawk XP is bolt-on, with no airframe changes. Blackhawk has authorized installation centers in the United States, Europe, Africa and South America. The conversion begins with a purchase order and an \$80,000 deposit, which is fully refundable up to one week prior to the date Pratt & Whitney ships the new engines to the installer. If the project is still a "go" at that point, the customer wires the balance due.

"After the engines arrive, the customer brings his aircraft to the installa-

tion center. A Pratt & Whitney representative inspects the core engines and accepts them for trade-in. We also give credits for engine time remaining until the factory TBO," Allmon explains. "The old engines are removed, and the new ones are installed, along with new engine mounts and hoses. We also remark the engine gauges; the King Airs get new digital torque gauges. Most customers also add the Raisbeck prop upgrade option with further increases the take-off, climb and cruise performance."

The aircraft is text-flown and returned to the owner. In exchange for three weeks maximum aircraft downtime and an investment of around \$610,000 (plus props), Blackhawk's customers get an airplane with better-than-factory-new performance and a 1,000-hour engine warranty with no calendar limit.



BlackhawkTM
Worldwide Aircraft Performance Enhancements

Blackhawk

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The Blackhawk XPTM is the ultimate turboprop performance enhancement package. Our simple bolt-on conversion requires no airframe modification. The original, underpowered engines are simply exchanged with two factory new Pratt & Whitney 750shp PT6A-135A engines with the Pratt & Whitney 1000 hour (no calendar limit) engine warranty. No other engine upgrade package offers the performance, safety and value for the price of the Blackhawk XPTM!

Maximum True Airspeed (25,000 Feet • ISA Day • Max Cruise Power • Mid Cruise Weight)

