

CASTLEBERRY INSTRUMENTS & AVIONICS

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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Castleberry provides panel-mounted flight instruments configured to meet civil Night Vision Goggle lighting requirements.

Georgetown, TX – July 26, 2004 – Castleberry Instruments and Avionics has delivered the first of its line of flight instruments with lighting compatible with the use of Night Vision Goggles (NVG) in civil flight operations.

In civil aviation the ability to operate safely at night has been limited. This is especially true in mountainous and rough terrain. Emergency Medical Helicopter operations and Airborne Law Enforcement have now applied NVG lessons learned from military operations to everyday situations. Use of NVG in the civilian world is to supplement night FAA Visual Flight Rules (VFR) operations. While NVG does not provide expanded night operations, it provides a wider margin of safety while operating under the long existing night VFR rules.

Since late 2003 Castleberry has provided its manufacturing expertise as a co-operative effort with Executive Instruments of Addison, TX, bringing approved flight instruments to this growing civil NVG market in the United States and overseas. The lighting designs are now complete for the 200 series directional gyro and 900 series gyro horizon. These instruments are configured and approved to meet the NVG crew station lighting requirements of RTCA/DO-275.

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This rigid NVG requirement specifies the goggle and aircraft modification requirements, as well as flight training requirements. Among these requirements is the satisfactory modification of the cockpit instruments. The NVG lighted presentation of the properly equipped Castleberry gyro will easily be seen by the unaided eye, and all but invisible to the NVG. The only apparent difference is that the lighting will be blue or blue/green in color.

“The reliability and ruggedness of design makes Castleberry gyros a very successful product line,” said James Garrett, vice president of Executive Instruments. “It’s obvious from my 43-year perspective that much care has gone into the design and manufacture of Castleberry gyros,” continued Garrett. “We are happy to use our combined expertise to provide NVG compatible lighting and products to users worldwide.”

Castleberry Instruments and Avionics is a Georgetown, Texas manufacturer and repair facility of aircraft flight instruments and electronic components for the General Aviation and Corporate Aircraft industry. Repair and overhaul services of gyroscopic aircraft instruments is a specialty. With more than 30 years in the industry, the highly respected company produces FAA approved and TSO’d direct replacement products for older, obsolete instruments no longer manufactured elsewhere.

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Photo: Castleberry Night Vision 504-0027-95xx – Night flying safety is enhanced by Castleberry Instruments & Avionics flight instruments with compatible lighting for Night Vision Goggle (NVG) applications. This dual purpose instrument series meets the crew station lighting requirements of RTCA/DO-275 for civil helicopter operations. The 200 series electric horizon shown here is a perfect match for the company’s 900 series directional gyro.