

## Air Methods to Retrofit Medical Transport Fleet with FlightOS Control Interface



The Skyrise FlightOS flight control userinterface, revealed here in a simulator at the start-up's innovation laboratory, will be retrofitted to 400 repaired and rotary wing air medical transportation airplane under a brand-new arrangement inbetween the Los Angeles-based start-up and Air Methods, one of the biggest air medical services suppliers in the U.S. (Photo, courtesy of Skyrise)

Air Methods, one of the biggest air medical service companies and helicopters operators in the U.S., has actually signed a brand-new contract with California-based transport innovation supplier Skyrise to retrofit more than 400 single-engine helicopters and fixed-wing airplane with the FlightOS automation hardware and software application.

Skyrise very first began making headings in 2019 after utilizing its flight stack automation innovation—a mix of helicopter flight and interactions systems consisting of “smart helipads”—to autonomously fly a customized Robinson R44 helicopter with no human intervention. In addition to retrofitting its air medical transportation fleet with FlightOS, Air Methods will invest \$5 million into a Series B financing round for Skyrise, taking the start-up’s overall raised to \$205 million.

The Air Methods’ overall fleet of owned, rented, or kept airplane functions more than 450 helicopters—the world’s biggest fleet of civilian helicopters—and fixed-wing airplane operating at more than 300 bases throughout the U.S., moving more than 100,000 individuals last year. A collaboration video launched by the 2 business programs Air Methods pilots examining the brand-new innovation in the Skyrise FlightOS innovation in Big Bear, California, changing the conventional cyclic-collective flight controls with a side stick and touchscreen tablet user interface for the pilots.

Mark Groden, CEO of Skyrise, informed *Avionics International* in emailed declarations that the retrofit program will change the cockpit systems included on repaired and rotary-wing airplane in the Air Methods fleet with a “full fly-by-wire system that’s constructed to business airliner requirements.” That setup is paired with Skyrise’s “universal flight deck and four-axis side stick,” according to Groden, who likewise keeps in mind that the business offers all of the required interactions and navigation systems along with sensing units essential to allow their system.

“We will be changing standard flight controls, avionics, radios, GPS, and ADS-B with our system,” Groden stated. “We change airframe particular and complex flight controls with a touch screen user interface and a four-axis side stick. That shift significantly minimizes pilot work in the cockpit and we likewise manage emergency situation circumstances such as autorotation. We are presently doing autorotations with FlightOS, an market .”

As Groden formerly described in a March 2020 interview with *Avionics*, FlightOS is created to be simple sufficient to control and find out that individuals with little to no flying experience might find out to usage it. While the flight controls are controlled through the touchscreen tablet and side-stick setup, on-board computer systems control all elements of the flight envelope, handle the airframe’s structure and aerodynamic operating limitations, and take advantage of outside radar and sensing units for real-time situational awareness.

Skyryse has continued to raise capital and establish its FlightOS innovation as well as offer media presentations over the last year. Michael Huerta, the previous FAA Administrator, and Chris Hart, previous chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), were likewise included on as consultants in November.

Groden stated the business was notable to share information about the cloud computing and IT facilities needed to allow FlightOS or images of what the retrofitted Air Methods fleet will appearance like once the upgrades are finished at this time.

“As the leading Air Medical company in the United States, we are constantly looking for methods to make rotor and fixed-wing flight muchsafer,” Air Methods CEO JaeLynn Williams stated in a declaration. “Skyryse is a innovative innovation that will drive a action modification in the security of rotor and fixed-wing flight not just for Air Methods, however for our consumers and the whole HEMS market.”

Source: [Air Methods to Retrofit Medical Transport Fleet with FlightOS Control Interface.](#)