



# Clarity Aloft Headset offers paradigm shift

*Aloft Technologies have recently appointed Giovanni Nustrini as NZ distributor for Clarity Aloft Headsets. KiwiFlyer borrowed one of these rather different units and tried it out in both fixed wing and rotary applications.*

**SEVERAL PEOPLE** that saw our loan headset asked the same question. "Does it work?" They also tended to ask it in the same manner, being that since it doesn't look traditional, it probably won't work, but they were curious anyway. The answer is yes. Actually it works very well indeed.

This headset packs a lot of technology into a very small space. Essentially it is a couple of "earplugs" and a flexi boom microphone attached to a lightweight wire frame that fits over your ears and around the back of your head. It's almost like putting on a pair of sunglasses in reverse and once on, you honestly won't notice that you're wearing it.

It is in fact a great disservice to call the earpieces, "earplugs". These are actually replaceable viscoelastic foam tips that are claimed to provide the highest level of noise protection (35-45dB) available by any method including ANR. (The headset does not have ANR circuitry). Sound from

a miniature speaker travels to the ear via a pathway through these foam tips. The result is exceptionally clear audio and particularly good noise reduction, more than suitable for the light aircraft and helicopters we tried the headset in.

Foam tips last for at least 30 days of regular use and cost under \$7 a pair to replace.

Fitting the earpieces is very simple thanks to the wire frame supporting the various headset components. The quality of the

earpieces (available in three sizes) are such that they are very comfortable to wear, to the point of not being able to tell whether they're in or out. One user we spoke to provided the anecdote of fiddling with the headset plugs and intercom after turning on the radio and hearing nothing, only to then realise that he hadn't yet fitted his earpieces.

An in-line volume control is provided, as is an audio music input though this does not have an auto mute function, so care needs to be taken when setting the music volume. The product is elegant in design,

very well made and comes in a robust carry bag. Cosmetic benefits also abound. You look cool, don't get headset hair, and can wear sunglasses comfortably.

One would need to have a particular aversity to wearing earplugs not to like this headset a lot. Measured in terms of comfort, ease of use, audio quality and noise reduction, the Clarity Aloft headset stacks up as value for money. The problem for some people will no doubt



*A very different and successful headset design.*

be the perception that value for money comes not from these attributes but from size and carbon fibre and fancy padding. As such, Clarity Aloft offers a paradigm shift well worth exploring. [www.clarityaloft.com](http://www.clarityaloft.com) offers numerous customer testimonials as well as interesting information on the research, development and performance of these headsets. The NZ price is yet to be set but current exchange rates suggest that this will fall around \$800+gst. Contact Giovanni Nustrini on (09) 298 9144 or email: [gustrini@tecnam.co.nz](mailto:gustrini@tecnam.co.nz)

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