

New King Air C90 GTx delivered to NZ customer

A SIGNIFICANT arrival on the New Zealand aircraft register for July was a brand new Hawker Beechcraft King Air C90 GTx, supplied and delivered to a South Island customer by Hawker Pacific NZ at Ardmore.

The C90 GTx is an advance on the previous GTi model and offers a gross all up weight increase to 10500lb as well as improved climb rate and fuel efficiency thanks to the addition of composite winglets. Depending on configuration and conditions, direct flights to Sydney are within reach. It is certified for single pilot operation and can carry up to seven passengers and their baggage.

Configured with Executive Club seating, the interior has all the features to be expected of a luxury air travel environment, including generous space and storage, a refreshment centre, folding tables, a built in air stair, and very fine detailing.

Two PT6A-135A engines provide a total of 1100 shaft horsepower and provide for a cruise speed at ISA of 260kts true airspeed at 9,500lb and 24,000 feet.

A Collins Pro Line 21 avionics suite is the same as found in the much larger King Air 350 and consists of three 8" x 10" LCD displays having a comprehensive range of display options.

Training and Delivery

With Hawker Pacific having secured the supply and maintenance of the aircraft, Engineering Manager Peter McCarty travelled to Wichita and the Hawker Beechcraft Maintenance Learning Centre to obtain a rating on it. Thanks to Mark Price at CAA, Peter says this was a very streamlined and easy process.

A CoA was issued for the aircraft in Wichita by David Gill from CAA and Peter at the Hawker Beechcraft Service Centre. Small issues were quickly resolved and Peter was again appreciative of CAA's support, saying that David did a great job of fitting these requirements in with other commitments.

The aircraft then had a HF oceanic radio fitted and certified and was flown



A brand new Hawker Beechcraft King Air C90 GTx ready for delivery on the apron at Hawker Pacific Ardmore.

to New Zealand by Ferry Pilot Vincent Fuschetti from Range Flyers Inc. over 8 days. This 18,000 mile delivery trip was quite uneventful, though an amusing anecdote did arise at the very end due to Vincent inadvertently pre-booking himself

to Peter who immediately flew him straight back to Auckland in a Cessna 172 allowing him to check in with moments to spare at 3:10pm. The trip back to Auckland Airport had taken 6 minutes, instead of the alternate 30 minutes by taxi.



Collins Pro Line 21 avionics suite

After removal of the HF radio and a full valet for the new aircraft, Hawker Pacific's Chief Pilot Tim Fletcher arrived from Australia on behalf of the Sales Division to check out and sign over the aircraft to its new owner. Tim also undertook several familiarisation flights with the new aircraft's pilots.

In regular use

Planes spotters can expect to see the new C90 regularly visiting airports around the country, something that Hawker Pacific consider might be the start of a trend with more enquiries in the pipeline. Peter says that introducing the aircraft has been a very smooth process thanks to the support available through the wider Hawker Pacific network with additional expertise readily available if needed. He says the aircraft is a delight to fly in, having sampled its cabin himself on a few occasions. On one early flight into Nelson, the crew were particularly impressed with their first use of the autopilot systems which flew the entire arrival on their behalf while they



A well appointed interior seats up to seven passengers in executive comfort.

a return flight to the USA for 5:15pm on the same afternoon that he was planning to arrive. He landed in the C90 at Auckland at 1pm which left very limited time to clear Customs and deliver the aircraft to Ardmore. By the time all processes had been completed, he landed the C90 at Ardmore at 2:45pm and was very grateful

watched the "little plane on the screen" follow the Jeppesen chart exactly to the smallest detail.

The owner is also very pleased with his new aircraft. Peter commented that this was especially the case on a recent trip from Nelson to Auckland where after some good humoured banter between the pilot

and a friend lining up behind in a Q300 who suggested they should get out of the way, the C90 flew higher, faster, and stayed ahead of the Q300 all the way to Auckland.

More Information

For more information on the C90 King Air or any of Hawker Pacific's product or service offerings, contact Steve Siddall at Hawker Pacific Ardmore on (09) 295 0665, email: steve.siddall@hawkerpacific.com



Above: Wichita to Ardmore, the long way around. The delivery trip covered 18,000 miles over 74 hours of flight time. 15 stops were made during 8 days of travel. (Google Earth images).



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