



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA  
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences

Department of Human Resource Management

leo.vermeulen@up.ac.za

Tel: 0124204756

Dear Sir/Madam

***International comparison of the perceptions that general aviation pilots hold about advanced cockpit aircraft***

We would like to invite you to participate in an international study on **the experiences of and perceptions about advanced cockpit aircraft held by general aviation pilots who operate advanced automated aircraft**. The Advanced Cockpit Aircraft Survey (ACAS) used in this study was constructed by NASA. We are using it to survey the perceptions of **general aviation** pilots operating advanced cockpit aircraft in the USA, South Africa and Australia. Your co-operation in completing the electronic ACAS questionnaire will provide valuable input that will enhance the overall success of this cross-national study. The South African part of the study is being managed by the Unit of Aviation Research at the University of Pretoria.

**The purpose of the study** is to explore the concepts of advanced automation, aircraft computerisation and their impact on human operators, particularly in the general aviation environment. The information gathered in this research project will add to the body of knowledge of human factors and automation in aviation, as well as the structuring of training programmes related to automation, thereby creating a far safer environment for general aviation pilots to operate in.

**Procedures:** If you agree to participate in this study, we request you to complete the web-based survey. In the survey we ask you about your opinions and experiences of operating glass cockpit aircraft. The questionnaire has been designed to take as little of your valuable time as possible (in most cases all you have to do is tick the answer you prefer). It should not take more than 30 minutes to complete the questionnaire.

**Confidentiality:** Please rest assured that your responses will be treated as strictly confidential. Numerical codes will be used to prevent any possible identification of the answers with you. The SA Civil Aviation Authority encourages you to participate in this study because it will contribute to its General Aviation Safety Initiative, but participation is voluntary.

**Ethical considerations:** If you participate in this survey, it means that you give permission for any data gathered in the survey to be used for academic research purposes. The main risk associated with the questionnaire is that you might feel uncomfortable about answering some of the questions that are a little more personal. However, please bear in mind that all responses are totally anonymous.

The overall results will be published in scientific journals and might be used in the development of applicable training programmes both locally and internationally. In other

words, your views will influence future outcomes, making your participation a valuable contribution. Neither you nor your organisation will be associated with any research reports or publications on the results of the questionnaires.

**IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU PARTICIPATE IN THIS STUDY SO THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN SURVEY CAN BE FULLY REPRESENTATIVE. THIS WILL ENHANCE THE VALIDITY OF THE CROSS-NATIONAL COMPARISONS.**

We would greatly appreciate it if you would complete the survey within **six** weeks after receiving this invitation via the Aeronautical Information Service of the SACAA.

By participating in this academic survey, you have an opportunity to win a prize. The editors of African Pilot have donated 10 one-year free subscriptions to the magazine and one CD-Rom with *The Complete Avidyne Software Course*. This interactive computer-based tutorial provides an orientation to the Technically Advanced Aircraft and helps pilots transition from conventional to the glass cockpit environment. If you complete the questionnaire and provide your contact e-mail address you will automatically be entered into a draw for these prizes.

THE ELECTRONIC QUESTIONNAIRE IS AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT:

<http://www.up.ac.za/hrresearch/index.php?sid=21888&lang=en>

If you have any questions about the study, you can contact:

Preven Naidoo (BCom (AVM); BCom Hons (BM); MPhil (HRM); ATPL), who is managing the South African part of the survey.

[preven.naidoo@hotmail.com](mailto:preven.naidoo@hotmail.com)

Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely



Prof. Leo Vermeulen

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Unit of Aviation Research