

Elite Evolution S723T Helicopter FNPT III MCC simulator

Now operational at
Starlite International Training Academy - Mossel Bay

The Starlite International Training Academy, situated in Mossel Bay, is pleased and proud to announce that their new Elite Evolution FNPT III MCC certified helicopter simulator is now fully operational. Students from all over Africa are already reaping the benefits of utilising it for their Instrument Flight Training requirements.

The first of its kind on the continent, the Elite Evolution S723T is based on the Eurocopter AS-355 Twin Engine Helicopter and is fully JAR/EASA/ compliant. It features a 3-channel CAVE visual system, full dual controls and dynamic control loading on the cyclic and pedals which means that it really does handle and perform like a real helicopter. The realism is further enhanced by a navigation and RealView data base covering all of South Africa with specific ultra-high resolution graphics for the airports at Mossel Bay, George, Port Elizabeth, George and Durban. Of course a wide variety of weather phenomena can be set before, or introduced during, the flight as well as a range of system and mechanical failures.

Where the simulator really breaks new ground, however, is with its Upper Functions. Just like a full IFR Twin-Engine helicopter it has EFIS, a real GARMIN 430, Radio Altimeter, Colour Weather Radar, SAS and a fully functioning auto-pilot. The auto pilot can fly a radial inbound and hold it, allowing for drift, after which it will capture the localiser and fly down the glideslope, proceeding to level off at 50 feet above runway elevation- fully "hands-off"- just like the most advanced IFR helicopters currently out there.

All this means that the students gain valuable exposure to the type of environment in which they will perform Instrument flight as and when they find their way into the co-pilots seat of, for example, a medium or large off-shore helicopter. The switches, dials and displays may look slightly



Transnet Students in a Multi-Crew IF session preparing for rolling take-off at FAPE in the Elite Simulator.

different or be in different places but at least they will know what these functions are for and how to use them to ensure safe and efficient flight at night or in IMC, or both.

In addition they are gaining valuable exposure to operating a twin-turbine machine as part of a crew. For example, they can practise a single engine failure whilst on the ILS and work together as a team to fly the aircraft safely, perform the vital actions and then work through the checklist to shut down the (correct) engine if necessary. The simulator is also configured with wheels so they can ground taxi and perform running take offs and landings as applicable – as well as remembering to pick the wheels up after take-off and more importantly put them down before landing! By dividing the cockpit tasks between

the Flying Pilot and Non Flying pilot and switching between these roles, they are again preparing for their future careers and achieving a level of realism hitherto only to be found in the much more complex (and far more expensive!) full-motion level D type simulators. Basically, for the cost nothing else comes even close in South Africa.

Finally, the simulator also teaches students how to start and manage turbine engines effectively and altogether acts as an excellent introduction to flying the larger and more complex helicopters, not previously encountered through the bulk of their training. So not only can it teach the students proper and professional Instrument Flying skills but also it is a hugely cost-effective introduction to pilots preparing

to fly a new Twin-Engine type.

In mid-August, representatives of the SACAA visited Starlite to see this new simulator for themselves. They conducted an exhaustive audit of the simulators functionality and performance and were highly impressed with its realism and capability. As the simulator meets the full requirements of the European regulations as pertain to flight simulators (EASA/JAR FSTD (H)) the credits match those currently enjoyed by the many European Operators of the Elite S723T.

All the students are loving flying this simulator and appreciate Starlite's on-going mission to provide the most up-to date, professional and realistic Helicopter Instrument training to be found anywhere on the continent. •



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Starlite Training Academy is situated in Durban and Mossel Bay. The newly built, state of the art Mossel Bay facilities opened in October 2012.



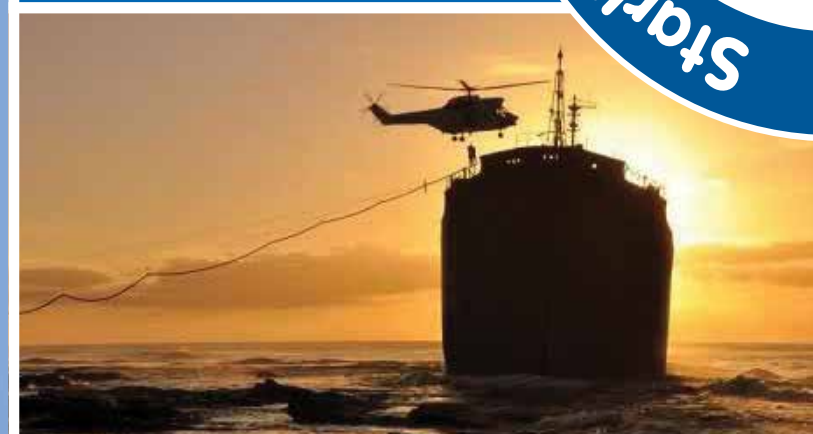
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Contact Kate in Durban
on 031 571 6600
or
Matt in Mossel Bay
on 044 692 0006

email: fly@starliteaviation.co.za



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ADDRESS: P.O. Box 201322, Durban North, 4016, South Africa – Hangar 123, Virginia Airport, Durban North 031 571 6600
Hangar C14, Mossel Bay Airfield, 69 Rooikat Street, Aalwyndal, Mossel Bay, 6500

www.starliteaviation.co.za