

PRESS RELEASE



One of the most significant simulator deals in European General Aviation has been signed between Diamond Aircraft Industries and ELITE Simulation Solutions, who have formed a new joint company to produce flight simulators for Diamond's range of aircraft.



Picture caption: Christian Dries (right), owner and CEO of Diamond Aircraft Industries, and Gerhard Thamm, co-owner and CEO of Elite Simulation Solutions, shake hands on the new joint-venture simulator deal.

The Austrian manufacturer of a highly successful range of light single and twin engine aircraft and the Swiss manufacturer which has been very successful lately with its FTD and FNPT solutions have agreed to set up a jointly owned company named Diamond-Elite Simulation Industries at Egelsbach Airport, which is centrally located within Europe close to Frankfurt/Main, Germany.

The company will start operations this October with its initial focus on developing and manufacturing JAA and FAA certifiable flight training devices for Diamond aircraft, with priority going to the Lycoming and Centurion diesel powered DA40 Diamond Star and DA42 Twin Star. The simulators will very closely replicate the original aircraft - among other things being equipped with the Garmin 1000 - and will meet the requirements of both JAR-STD 3(A) FNPT II and FAA AC-120-45 FTD Level 5 and 6. Although the development of the training devices has already started, any changes on the actual aircraft will be taken into consideration when manufacturing the new simulators.

The first of the new DA40 and DA42 simulators have already been ordered, with initial deliveries to customers planned for the beginning of next year.

“We have been evaluating several suppliers of flight simulation devices and chose Elite because of the company’s convincing technology and quality. It is our goal to provide high quality training devices at fair prices to our customers” said Christian Dries, Diamond’s owner and CEO. “The agreement offers very close co-operation with Elite but will still allow Diamond Aircraft Industries to offer data packages to other manufacturers of flight simulators.”

Gerhard Thamm, co-owner and CEO of Elite, said: “With more than 30 simulators sold since the beginning of 2003 we have developed into one of the leading companies for FTDs and FNPTs. Our success is based on the company’s expertise in producing affordable flight training devices without compromising our quality standards. This is where Diamond and Elite fit perfectly together. As a team, we will redefine simulator standards for the benefit of our customers. The dream of flying General Aviation aircraft will in future start on ground.”

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For further media information, please contact

Sylvia Mandl, Marketing Director, Diamond Aircraft Industries, at s.mandl@diamond-air.at,
telephone +43 2622 26700-352 or

Heinrich Schaible, Director of Sales + Marketing, Elite Simulation Solutions AG, at
hschaible@flyelite.ch, telephone at +41-43-355-19-20.