

Case Study: Piaggio Aero uses Airtel ATN's Multi Test Platform (MTP) to validate CPDLC on Avanti II



PIAGGIO®

Objectives

- Validate CPDLC on Avanti II aircraft
- Portable, compact test system

Why Airtel ATN

- Multi Test Platform (MTP) enables testing from any location
- Small in size and portable
- Used by EUROCONTROL, SITA and ARINC

Results

- Validated Data Link on Avanti II and other aircraft
- Found faulty VDLM2 radio on Avanti II which was then returned and replaced
- Ongoing testing and validation using MTP every few months



Background

Piaggio Aero Industries, founded in 1998, is the only company in the world that is active in the design, construction and maintenance of both aircraft (multi-utility and ISR) and aero engines. The main service centre operates from Genoa Airport where it provides maintenance, repair, overhaul and inspection services. The company also has service centres in Rome's Ciampino Airport and the Pratica di Mare military airport.

With the Data Link compliance EU deadline approaching, Piaggio Aero needed to ensure that the Controller Pilot Data Link Communications (CPDLC) was functioning correctly on its aircraft.



Enabling Technology

In June 2013 Piaggio Aero approached Airtel ATN as it is the leading provider of Data Link test systems. Piaggio Aero was looking for a small, portable Data Link test system in order to validate the Data Link on the modified aircraft. Airtel ATN offered a compact system which consisted of a laptop (with specialised software) and a mini VDR.

Results

An Airtel ATN engineer went onsite to Piaggio headquarters to train the maintenance personnel on the use of the MTP. After the training and armed with the test system, company specialists are now equipped to test and validate Data Link connections in any location. In fact, when testing an Avanti II, a fault was found with the VDLM2 radio. This was then returned to the manufacturer and replaced.

"The neat size and portability of the test system is what drew us to Airtel ATN's Multi Test Platform. The onsite training with the MTP means that we can now test and retest aircraft whenever we like at no extra cost."

**Emilian Damascus, Avionics Engineering
Coordinator, Piaggio Aero**