

THE WESTWIND JOURNAL

GAAR 2025 | Cockpit Chatter | FlightSim Expo 2025

WestWind Airline Stats - YTD

Total Flight Hours:	9,104
Total Offline Hours:	7,371
Total Online Hours:	1,733
Total Flights:	2,861
Total Cargo (lbs.):	40,155,308

WestWind Hub Rankings

March

Top 3 Hubs by Total Hours

1 - Miami	381
2 - Singapore	308
3 - Denver	299

Top 3 Hubs by Total Flights

1 - Miami	104
2 - Cincinnati	102
3 - New York	93

Top 3 Hubs - VATSIM Hours

1 - Amsterdam	38
2 - Chicago	32
3 - Calgary	29

WINWING Unveils New Products

During FSWeekend 2025 in Lelystad, Netherlands, WINWING took stage to announce several new products and unveiled their 2025 roadmap of products.

WINWING started by showcasing their URSA MINOR lineup which focuses on the Airbus series.

URSA MINOR Airline Throttle Featuring

- Metal throttle with full backlighting
- Highly realistic Airbus detents
- Detent limiter allows for detent and detentless configuration



Cont on page 9





Great Australian Air Rally 2025

presented by Bluegrass & WestWind Airlines



The Great Australian Air Rally 2025 - Kicks Off

Our Objective

To provide a fun event for flight simulation pilots to compete with others from every corner of the globe, and to test the flight and navigation skills of pilots during 10 flights over Australia from Darwin down to the East Coast of Australia along a route loosely based on the QANTAS route from 1929.

Information - Air Rally 2025

This year we are joined by WestWind Airlines again in presenting the GAAR. This should allow us to present fights for FS9, FSX, P3D, MSFS and X-Plane.

Flights and airfield information will be available from end March.

The longest leg is 267nm. The daily flights are supplied with weather based on April 2024.

No one under 13 years of age may participate without a parent or guardians approval. Have them email me at gaar15director@gmail.com for special instructions on signing up.

Instructions for Registration

For this event we simply ask you to nominate your Cruising Ground Speed for your chosen aircraft. We tried this for the GAMR and it did not cause any problems.

Be sure to nominate the Cruising Ground Speed for your entry. It is important that you do not use the Indicated Air Speed (IAS). Once your test flight is completed, submit an email to gaar15director@gmail.com. For more information, check out our [GAAR 2025 website](#).





NOW HIRING

Exciting career opportunity awaits you!

WestWind Airlines is seeking applications for **Chief Maintenance Officer (CMO)** - a position with a seat on the Executive Committee.

WestWind Airlines is seeking an enthusiastic and detail oriented individual who enjoys working in a team environment with a focus on promoting and growing our aircraft and scenery departments. This position requires that you have the ability to paint aircraft.

Are you ready to accelerate your virtual career into overdrive?

Contact **Sean McConnell** via Private Message on the WestWind Forums to apply.



Marseille/Provence Airport Upgraded for XP11

Bob Sturm, VP of Scenery, recently modified France's Marseille/Provence airport (LFML). The airport is considered one of the WestWind's European Regional Airports. A few corrections/modifications were made to the original XP11 airport. The Westwind passenger gates are located at extreme SouthEast end of Terminal 1B (Gates 1A-4). The WestWind Cargo Ramp/Terminal is located to the North-East of the GA terminal.

Passenger Terminal



Aerial View



Nice work and thank you, as always, Bob!





NOW HIRING

Exciting career opportunity awaits you!

The Online Operations & Events department is now hiring for **Director of Online Operations & Events**.

WestWind Airlines is seeking an enthusiastic individual who enjoys working in a team environment with a focus on promoting and growing our online and events department.

Are you ready to accelerate your virtual career into overdrive?

Contact **John Condon** via Private Message on the WestWind Forums to apply.



HONEYCOMB Sierra TPM - COMING SOON

The Sierra TPM Module is designed for enthusiasts of general aviation and propeller-driven aircraft like the Cessna 172, offering realistic control with its metal verniers and knobs.



TRIM WHEEL - Low profile, nose up and nose down trim wheel

METAL TPM VERNIERS - Lockable throttle vernier; propeller & mixture with fine-tune adjustment

PARKING BRAKE & FLAPS - Integrated parking brake and flaps lever

LANDING GEAR & LIGHTS - Up and down lever and status indicator LED lights

HONEYCOMB BUILD QUALITY - Engineered to the highest standards for durability and reliability

COMING SOON - \$249.99US



Phil Cohen (WWA1573)

WestWind Executive - Charter of the Month

May 2025 - Charter of the Month - P163 Kokoda Trail VFR Scenic Charter

The **Returned Services League of Australia** (RSL) has asked WestWind charters to transport some war veterans on a tour of the Kokoda Track in New Guinea. The Track is of great historical significance to the veterans. Due to the nature of the tour, this flight will be conducted VFR in a propeller aircraft. The Beechcraft Baron 58G is ideal for this flight. A basic map of the region can be found [here](#).



The flight commences at **Jackson Airfield** at Port Moresby (AYPY) and terminates at **Girua** (AYGR) on the north coast of New Guinea.

From the Jackson Airfield, turn to a heading of 060 degrees which brings you to the entrance of a valley. Fly the length of the valley on a heading of 090 degrees. When you exit the valley, turn to 045 degrees. This course takes you across a broad plain to the entrance of another valley. This is the position of Owen's Corner (9 degrees 4 minutes S, 147 degrees 28 minutes E). You should pick up the Track here. It is possible



to pick up the Track on the plain, but it may be difficult to follow. Kokoda lies in a broad valley at the junction of another Track. (8 degrees 52 minutes S, 147 degrees 45 minutes E). Follow the Track east to the ocean before tracking to Girua for a landing. Return. **Warning:** This is a very difficult charter. The terrain is very steep and the Track drops off over ridges. The Track also turns unexpectedly on the far side of ridges. This makes the track very hard to follow in places. Fly at low altitude to keep sight of the

track but in some locations the mountains rise to altitudes faster than your plane can climb.



March Screenshot
Competition Winner

Fred Koch
WWA3631



Congratulations!



Cockpit Chatter

NVIDIA Announces GeForce RTX 50-Series GPUs

NVIDIA launches their RTX 50-series GPUs. The lineup includes the RTX 5070, 5070 Ti, 5080, and the flagship RTX 5090, with prices ranging from \$549 to \$1,999. These GPUs promise groundbreaking advancements in performance, energy efficiency, and AI-powered features like DLSS 4.

At the heart of the RTX 50-series is NVIDIA's Blackwell architecture, which promises a considerable leap in performance compared to the previous Ada Lovelace generation. The GPUs feature GDDR7 memory, offering faster data throughput and better energy efficiency than the GDDR6X memory used in the RTX 40-series. This improvement is expected to benefit workloads that rely heavily on texture streaming and large data sets—key considerations for graphically intensive titles like Microsoft Flight Simulator.

As has been the tradition with NVIDIA's recent GPU generations, one of the standout features of the RTX 50-series is DLSS 4, the latest iteration of the company's AI-driven upscaling technology. DLSS 4 introduces AI-generated frames, allowing for smoother gameplay even in demanding scenarios.

According to NVIDIA, this feature can generate multiple frames per rendered frame, significantly boosting frame rates. The impact can be dramatic, with more than 2x FPS in titles that support the technology. Benchmarks for Cyberpunk 2077 and Alan Wake 2 were presented to illustrate these gains, and while Microsoft Flight Simulator wasn't included, it is likely to see substantial benefits from these advancements, particularly in VR and high-resolution scenarios.

Pricing and Availability

NVIDIA started shipping in January, with laptops featuring the GPUs expected in March 2025. Pricing starts at \$549 for the RTX 5070 and climbs to \$1,999 for the RTX 5090. These prices reflect the high-end positioning of the RTX 50-series, which is aimed at enthusiasts and professionals looking for cutting-edge performance.

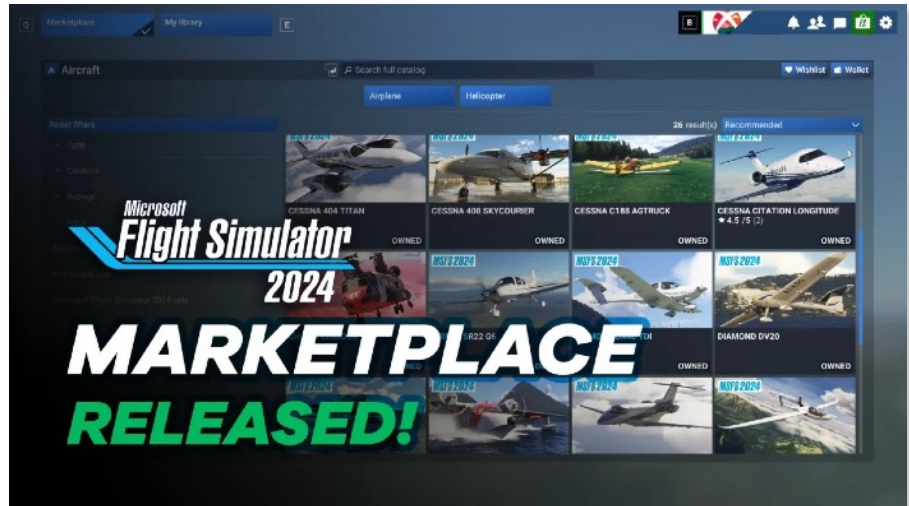
For MSFS players considering an upgrade, it may be worth waiting for third-party benchmarks that specifically test the simulator's performance on the new GPUs.



Cockpit Chatter

MSFS 2024 - Marketplace Now Available

After nearly four months of waiting, Microsoft Flight Simulator 2024 finally has an in-sim Marketplace. Simmers will now be able to browse, purchase, and manage add-ons directly within the simulator, with new features like Simverse Coins, upgrade options for older content, and a revamped library system. While some anticipated features are still on the way, this marks a major step forward in bringing third-party content into MSFS 2024.



Manage your content in My Library

One of the major features of the MSFS 2024 Marketplace is the **My Library** system, which allows users to track and manage their purchased content. Thousands of items from the MSFS 2020 Marketplace have been ported into MSFS 2024, though they are disabled by default to give users full control over which add-ons to activate. The only content that is enabled automatically is that which is sold directly by Microsoft and Asobo.

Content in **My Library** is listed into three categories based on feedback from the original creators:

- **Not Creator Approved:** Either tested by the creator and found incompatible or awaiting confirmation of compatibility.
- **Not Available:** Items owned in MSFS 2020 that have not been successfully ported to MSFS 2024 and are currently inaccessible.
- **No Tag:** Content confirmed by the creator to be fully compatible with MSFS 2024.

Additionally, a separate creator sign-off process exists for items that developers wish to sell in the MSFS 2024 Marketplace.

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Cockpit Chatter



MSFS 2024 - Marketplace Now Available (Cont.)

Marketplace Features: Simverse Coins and Upgrades

A key introduction in the new Marketplace is Simverse Coins, a virtual currency that can be used to purchase content. Users can buy Simverse Coins directly within the Marketplace or from select retailers if they are using the Windows Store or Xbox versions of the simulator. However, Simverse Coins purchased at retail cannot be used on the Steam version of the game.

Users can toggle between seeing prices in Simverse Coins or their local currency and select their preferred payment method at checkout. If a user does not own Simverse Coins, pricing will default to showing only local currency amounts.

Upgrades for MSFS 2020 Content

Microsoft says that a significant number of add-ons originally developed for MSFS 2020 have been ported to MSFS 2024 and will be available for purchase. These products will be marked with an MSFS 2020 logo on their thumbnails to indicate that they were not developed natively for MSFS 2024.

Developers have the option to optimize their MSFS 2020 content for MSFS 2024 by offering upgrades. These upgrades can either be free or come with an additional cost. All upgraded content will be designated as "Upgraded" in the Marketplace, and users who own an item that qualifies for a free upgrade will receive a notification in the simulator linking them directly to the Marketplace page.

Known Issues

As with any new system, there are a few known issues that Microsoft has acknowledged:

- Free 2024 upgrades for ported 2020 content must be obtained manually in the Marketplace rather than being automatically granted.
- Third-party add-ons are not yet available in the Marketplace, though Microsoft is actively working with developers to integrate their content.
- Users may experience crashes when accessing the Wallet tab in the Marketplace.

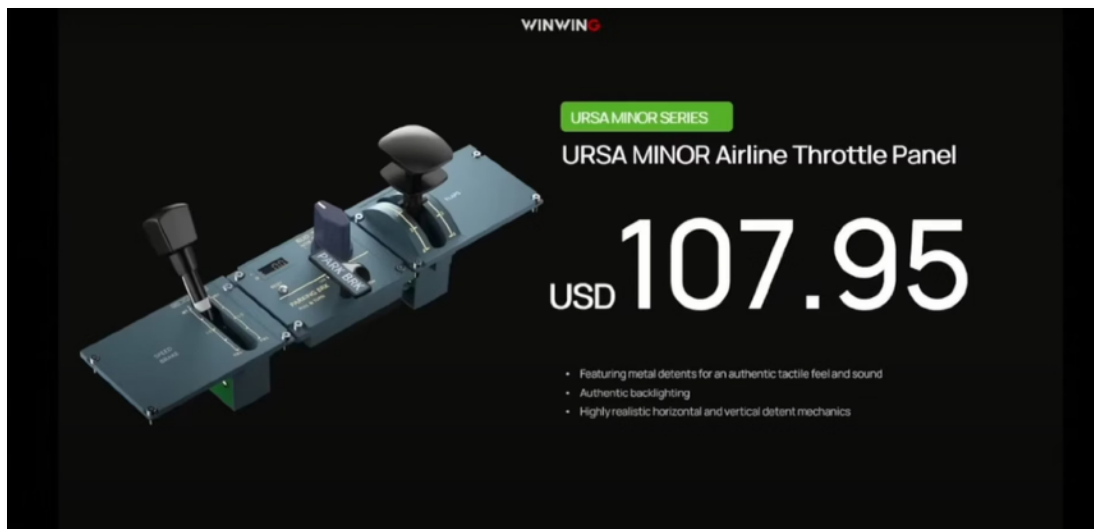
The launch of the MSFS 2024 Marketplace represents a major step forward for the platform, having been missing since MSFS 2024 was released nearly four months ago. With new payment methods, better content control, and upcoming rental and gifting options, the Marketplace is set to evolve further in the coming months, offering new opportunities for simmers to explore fresh content.



WINWING Unveils New Products (Cont)

URSA MINOR Airline Throttle Panel

- Featuring metal detents for an authentic tactile feel and sound
- Authentic backlighting
- Highly realistic horizontal and vertical mechanics



WINWING MIP SERIES

MIP Airline PAP 3 Panel

- Realistic control experience
- Full backlighting
- Compatible with wide-body aircraft signal indicator



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WINWING Unveils New Products (Cont)

MIP Airline PAP 3 MAG Panel

The MIP Airline PAP 3 Panel can be upgraded with the MIP MAG Switch, a magnetic switch for the autothrottle for a more authentic experience, retailing for \$49.95 or pre-installed to the MIP Airline PAP 3 Panel for \$199.99.



MIP SERIES
MIP MAG Switch
USD **49.95**



MIP SERIES
MIP Airline PAP 3 MAG Panel
USD **199.9**

- Pre-installed with MIP MAG Switch
- Full backlighting
- Compatible with wide-body aircraft signal indicator

MIP Airline PDC 3N Panel

- Designed to seamlessly integrate with the MIP Airline PAP 3 Panel
- Full backlighting
- Further enhances the realism of the avionics system



MIP SERIES
MIP Airline PDC 3N Panel
USD **84.95** Each

- Designed to seamlessly integrate with the PAP 3 Panel
- Full backlighting
- Further enhances the realism of the avionics system.

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WINWING Unveils New Products (Cont)

MIP Airline PDC 3N Panel Complete w/ Dual EFIS



MIP Combat 13 CNI-MU Panel

Ending the MIP series announcements was the MIP Combat 13 CNI-MU Panel, similar in looks to a Boeing 737 FMC but in combat styling.

An advertisement for the WINWING MIP Combat 13 CNI-MU Panel. The image shows the panel on the left, which has a green monochrome display and a keypad with green and black buttons. To the right of the panel, the text "WINWING" is at the top. Below it, a green box contains the text "MIP SERIES". Underneath that, the text "MIP Combat 13 CNI-MU Panel" is displayed. At the bottom right, the price "USD 129.95" is shown in large white font.

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WINWING Unveils New Products (Cont)

WINWING CYBER TAURUS

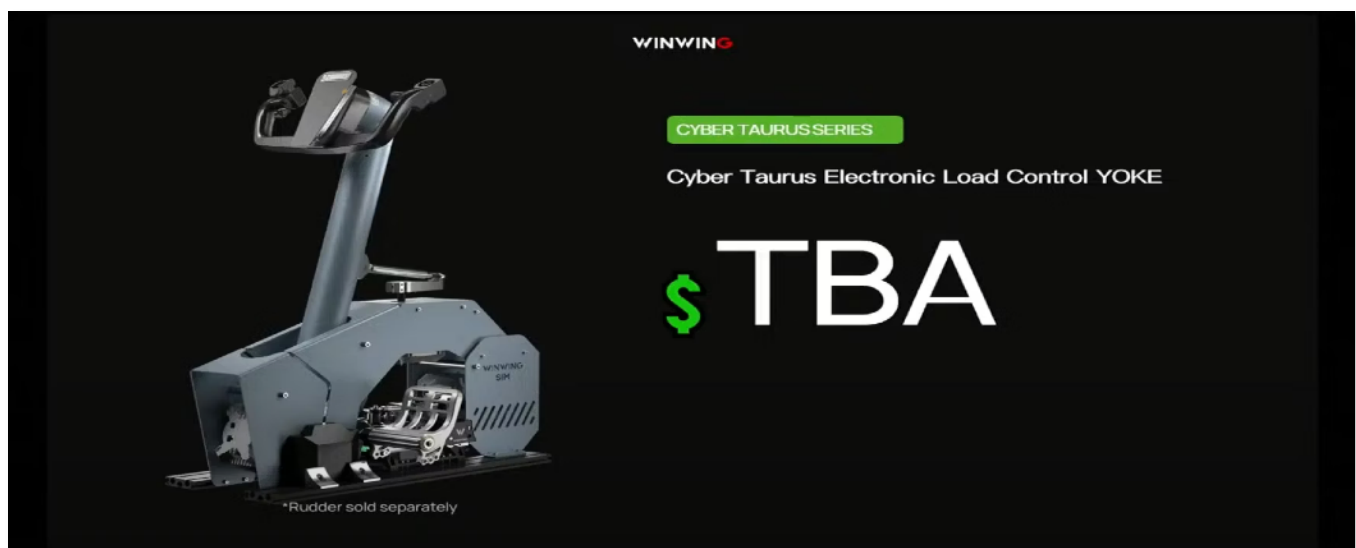
WinWing also announced new products in the Cyber Taurus series, including three new force-feedback joystick bases and a rudder pedal set. The base product, the Cyber Taurus joystick base will include professional electronic load control, belt-driven construction, a rated output of 20Nm of torque.



The higher tier product, the Cyber Taurus (D) joystick base, will include two versions featuring a gear-reduced and a direct drive base. The gear-reduced base will have a rated output of 60Nm of torque, and the direct drive base will have a rated output of 16Nm of torque.

They then showcased the Cyber Taurus Electronic Load Control Rudder Pedals, featuring high precision electronic load, unmatched accuracy and swift control dynamics.

And finally, the Cyber Taurus Electronic Load Control Yoke was teased, however this is still being developed and the final retail price will be revealed soon.





FlightSimExp 2025

Rhode Island Convention Center

June 27 - 29

FlightSimExpo is one of the world's largest enthusiast flight simulation conventions, welcoming more than 7,000 attendees to events since 2018. The show connects flight simmers, enthusiasts, professional aviators, and aspiring pilots to demonstrate the power of home flight simulation for training, proficiency, and fun!

THE 2025 EVENT AT A GLANCE:

Friday, June 27 is #FSExpoFriday, a series of product reveals, announcements, and updates from flight simulation's biggest developers. Afterward, all attendees are invited to an evening Welcome Reception. Note there is no exhibit hall access on Friday.



Saturday, June 28 and Sunday, June 29 feature an exhibit hall with interactive experiences that show off the latest in flight simulation. Two stages feature seminars, Q&As, and panel discussions on a variety of aviation topics. Additionally, free workshops provide hands-on opportunities from home cockpit building to 3D computer modeling.

Friday, June 27

Product Reveals and Welcome Reception

8am-1pm	Optional Morning Activities
1-5:30pm	#FSExpoFriday Seminars
5:30-6:30pm	Attendee Welcome Reception SPONSORED BY: FeelThere
7-9pm	FlightSimExpo Banquet

Saturday, June 28

Exhibit Hall, Workshops, and Seminars

8:30-9:30am	Morning Coffee and Tea SPONSORED BY: SayIntentions.AI
9am-6pm	Exhibit Hall Access
9am-6pm	Workshops
9am-6pm	Seminars

Sunday, June 29

Exhibit Hall, Workshops, and Seminars

8:30-9:30am	Morning Coffee and Tea SPONSORED BY: SayIntentions.AI
9am-3pm	Exhibit Hall Access
9am-3pm	Workshops
9am-3pm	Seminars

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER



Navigraph Aircraft Review

Aerosoft CRJ V2: A Fresh Take on a Classic Airliner

By Jason Sokoloff, Technical Support Specialist

Aerosoft's CRJ was among the first airliner releases for Microsoft Flight Simulator 2020, quickly becoming a favorite for many virtual pilots due to its solid performance and immersive experience. Now, Aerosoft has taken things to the next level with the release of the CRJ V2, designed for both MSFS2020 and MSFS2024. This updated version boasts over 190 enhancements, including a brand-new cabin model, improved galley lighting, functional seatbelt and no-smoking signs, a refined flight model leveraging MSFS2024's advanced technology, and a fully integrated EFB featuring Navigraph and SimBrief compatibility. Join us as we see what this aircraft is all about.



Test Flight Experience



Installing the CRJ V2 was straightforward. For MSFS2020, I updated the aircraft via the installer where I originally purchased it. For MSFS2024, I opted to buy the new version outright to support Aerosoft's development efforts. To put the CRJ V2 to the test, I chose a non-rev express flight operated by SkyWest Airlines—a major regional carrier headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah, with extensive experience flying the CRJ series.

The route was SKW 4315 from Salt Lake City (KSLC) to Saint George Regional Airport (KSGU), a gateway to Utah's stunning Mighty Five National Parks. This flight is often frequented by non-revs heading to SkyWest headquarters in Saint George.

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Aerosoft CRJ V2: A Fresh Take on a Classic Airliner

External and Internal Models



For this test, I flew the CRJ-700 series in MSFS2024, and Aerosoft truly delivered on visual fidelity. The external model shines with its updated PBR textures, giving it an incredibly realistic look under varying lighting conditions. Inside, the revamped cabin is equally impressive, featuring crisp

textures and an enhanced lighting system that adds depth and immersion to the flight simmer experience.

Enhanced EFB Features

One of the standout upgrades in CRJ V2 is its fully integrated Electronic Flight Bag (EFB). The EFB now supports full Navigraph chart capabilities alongside AIRAC data (delivered with AIRAC 2309). For Navigraph subscribers, updating AIRAC cycles is seamless through the Navigraph Hub. The EFB also allows easy import of SimBrief operational flight plans (OFPs), streamlining pre-flight preparation.



During my test flight, I used the EFB to brief the ARCHZ 1 departure from Salt Lake City—a smooth and intuitive process that added valuable situational awareness.

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Aerosoft CRJ V2: A Fresh Take on a Classic Airliner



Flight Model Observations

Out of the box, I noticed that the CRJ V2 was significantly more sensitive than other aircraft in both horizontal and vertical axes. Adjusting sensitivity settings within the simulator resolved this issue quickly. Additionally, I used SPAD.neXt to bridge some compatibility gaps between my Bravo throttle quadrant and the CRJ's systems. Once dialed in, the aircraft handled beautifully during manual control and autopilot operations.



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Aerosoft CRJ V2: A Fresh Take on a Classic Airliner

For an extra touch of realism, I installed Boris Sound Modifications—a highly recommended addition that enhances engine sounds and overall immersion during flights.



Landing The CRJ V2

The landing phase was eventful but ultimately satisfying. My approach into Saint George required a go-around due to pilot error—I came in too high and fast while trying to shave off a few miles on my approach path.



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Aerosoft CRJ V2: A Fresh Take on a Classic Airliner



Despite this hiccup, the CRJ V2 performed admirably during the attempt. Its refined flight model felt responsive yet forgiving once properly configured.

Final Thoughts

Aerosoft's CRJ V2 for MSFS2020 and MSFS2024 is more than just an upgrade. With its detailed visual enhancements, robust EFB integration, and improved flight dynamics tailored for MSFS2024's technology, this aircraft offers an engaging experience for both casual simmers and



seasoned enthusiasts alike. With the new Navigraph charts integration in their EFB, this plane delivers on all fronts for years to come. Welcome to Saint George!



WESTWIND

PROMOTIONS AND AWARDS



Pilot Promotions - March

Hal Morse WWA3615 - Sr. Command Captain +33
 Waldemar Penna Filho WWA76 - Sr. Command Captain +16
 Brian Ware WWA2220 - Sr. Command Captain +14
 Phil Cohen WWA1573 - Sr. Command Captain +13
 Vincent Simmons WWA3477 - Sr. Command Captain +10
 Ken Snyder WWA1735 - Sr. Command Captain +8
 Edward Ward WWA28 - Sr. Command Captain +4
 Doug Jackfert WWA3541 - Sr. Command Captain +4
 Glenn Maus WWA2987 - Sr. Command Captain +2
 Donald Tinc WWA3635 - Sr. Command Captain +1
 Raymond Stone WWA1039 - Senior Command Captain
 John Parnell WWA3498 - Command Captain
 Chase Boni WWA3675 - Category V
 Kevin Pinkosky WWA3681 - Category III

Recognition Awards - March

Kenneth Haynes WWA2055 - 17 Years of Service
 Steve Canham WWA11 - Completed P002 U.N. Tour
 Phil Cohen WWA1573 - 7,500 Hours
 Ken Snyder WWA1735 - 5,000 Hours



WestWind Leadership Team

WestWind Executive Committee

President & CEO - Sean McConnell
 CIO - George Forster
 CAO & Chief Pilot - John Condon
 COO - Phil Cohen
 CMO - *Vacant*

WestWind Hub Management

COO - Phil Cohen
 Hub Ops Manager - *Vacant*

Hub Managers

Amsterdam - George Forster
 Atlanta - Mike Jones
 Calgary - Scott Robinson
 Chicago - John Oddo
 Cincinnati - David Reason
 Dallas-Ft. Worth - Al Stallbaumer
 Denver - Brian Mills
 London Heathrow - Ken Rotker
 Los Angeles - Steve Canham
 Miami - John Condon
 New York - Tony Yonek
 Seattle - Dwayne White
 Singapore - Bob Sturm
 Sydney - Kenneth Haynes

WestWind Executive Management

VP of Scenery - Bob Sturm
 Director of Marketing - Don Tinc
 Director of Aircraft - Joe Gay
 Director of Online Ops - *Vacant*
 Alaska Regional Mgr - Scott Robinson
 Europa Regional Mgr - Andrea Maccioni
 Caribe Regional Mgr - Ian Crawford
 Hawaii Regional Mgr - Phil Cohen
 Tahiti Regional Mgr - Sean McConnell

The WestWind Journal

Director of Newsletters - Karl Truman
 Temporary Editor - John Condon