

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

Dropzone operator maximizes flight time, reduces operating costs

Honeywell TPE331-12JR turboprop engine helps drive efficiency and business growth.



Overview:

Nzone Skydive, an award-winning skydiving operator, recently took possession of the first Supercub 900 aircraft in New Zealand. Texas Turbine Conversions, Inc. completed the Cessna Grand Caravan conversion using a Honeywell TPE331-12JR turboprop engine. With the addition of the Supercub 900, **Nzone has doubled its passenger capacity, improved operational efficiency by 33 percent and reduced their fuel burn by approximately 35 percent, from 5.55 liters per jumper to 3.6 liters per jumper.**

Background:

Based in Queenstown, New Zealand, Nzone was established in 1990 by two parachute enthusiasts with a goal of providing tourists the ultimate experience in tandem skydiving. Nzone has continually worked to expand their operations, including the purchase of their first turbine aircraft in 1999 and the 2003 addition of a second skydive dropzone in Rotorua. Over time, Nzone operated up to two Pacific Aerospace turbine aircraft with the capacity

to carry nine skydivers per flight, for an average of more than 18,000 tandem jumps per year.

Business Need:

With the great variability of New Zealand's weather patterns and the limited vacation stays of international visitors, Nzone required a new aircraft that could carry more passengers per flight to help grow their business. Additional flight capacity would allow Nzone to take better advantage of the limited windows of good weather by accommodating larger groups of tandem skydivers within a shorter time frame. This also would help reduce their weather cancellation rates, while giving them the ability to keep larger groups together on one flight and cope with peak seasonal demands without turning away business.

Nzone also wanted their aircraft to have a proven powerplant that burned less fuel, offered lower maintenance costs and provided quiet, reliable operation. After searching for available platforms, Nzone learned about Texas Turbine Conversions' Supercub 900 with Honeywell's TPE331-12JR turboprop engine.

QUICK FACTS

Customer Results

- Increased passenger capacity - 2x per flight
- Improved operational efficiency by 33%
- Reduced fuel burn approximately 35% per jumper
- Quieter flyovers
- Reduced maintenance requirements
- Lower operating costs

Honeywell Solutions

- Honeywell TPE331-12JR engine in the Supercub 900 conversion aircraft
- Implementation partner: Texas Turbine Conversions, Inc.

Why Honeywell

- Demonstrated engine performance and reliability
- Proven reputation as an industry leader
- Global partner network and service support

Customer

- Name: Nzone Skydive
- Geography/Location: Queenstown/Rotorua, New Zealand
- Industry: General Aviation, SkyDiving Operator
- Website: www.Nzone.biz
<https://www.facebook.com/NzoneSkydiveQT>
<http://twitter.com/#!/NzoneSkydive>
<http://www.youtube.com/Nzoneskydive>
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/Nzoneskydive>



“This (Honeywell-powered) plane is the quietest and most efficient on the market and will significantly lower our emissions while adding no adverse affects to our neighbors. It's the best fit for our business, our environment and our neighbors. This plane fits with our own needs for high standards and best practices.”

Lindsay Williams
Managing Director
Nzone Skydive

Solution:

After undertaking significant research to invest in the best aircraft for its situation and in speaking with Texas Turbine Conversions and others, Nzone selected the Honeywell-powered Supervan 900 aircraft to join their fleet. “Nzone is always looking for ways to improve customer value and experience,” said Lindsay Williams, Nzone’s Managing Director. “The increased passenger capacity of the Supervan 900 means friends, families, work colleagues and people travelling together can stay together for the experience. It will also reduce waiting times for those in a group.”

Nzone was convinced the Honeywell TPE331-12JR engine would meet all of their business needs: reliable performance, quiet operation, low fuel burn, high time between overhauls (TBO), and a low per-hour operating cost. “In this instance it was all about the product and its performance,” Williams stated. “We believed the Honeywell engine would tick all the boxes.” In December of 2010, Nzone took possession of its Supervan 900 with the TPE331-12JR powerplant.

Benefits:

Since introducing the Supervan 900, Nzone has greatly improved its business operations, carrying more passengers to the skies above Queenstown. The new aircraft has also enhanced their flight operations with shorter take offs, faster climbs, a longer range and lower fuel burn – while keeping the neighbors around airports and drop zones happy because of the aircraft’s low noise signature.

Williams said the new addition was an upgrade that has brought many benefits to the company and adventure seekers and pointed to these specific highlights when compared to their other aircraft:

- Doubled capacity to 18 jumpers per flight – up from nine skydivers per flight
- Increased operational efficiency by 33 percent in terms of number of customers carried within time frame
- Improved fuel efficiency – decreased fuel consumption from 5.55 liters per jumper to 3.6 liters per jumper, representing approximately a 35 percent reduction in fuel consumption per jumper
- Increase in TBO up to 7,000 hours
- Reduced maintenance downtime – aircraft has reduced workload by half which significantly reduces the regularity of scheduled maintenance checks

- Quieter flyovers with certification to 76 decibels – reduces noise for local neighborhoods, an environmental concern due to the urban spread that has occurred over Nzone’s past 20 years of operation

Nzone is also excited that the Supervan 900 will further improve the company’s environmental efficiency. The aircraft’s fuel consumption is more economical and the company’s overall per passenger carbon footprint is significantly reduced. “If we can become more fuel efficient, we are taking positive steps towards sustainable practices and environmentally aware aviation. That’s a huge bonus for us,” Mr. Williams said.

For skydive operators considering a Honeywell-powered Supervan, Williams greatly encourages the purchase. “Due to the economic benefits and the great bonus of moving towards sustainability,” he states, “it’s simply the best possible choice considering the noise and environmental concerns currently facing our industry.”

Related Solutions

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- AV8OR ACE™

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