



SKYRYSE ACHIEVES HISTORIC FIRST FLIGHT OF BLACK HAWK WITH SKYOS

News / Manufacturer



Skyryse announced the successful first flight of a Black Hawk helicopter equipped with SkyOS, the world’s first operating system for flight. While in flight, Skyryse also executed precision flight maneuvers using SkyOS’ single control stick, and witnessed SkyOS’ maturity on its very first flight, on a new platform.

The first flight comes just 91 days after installation of SkyOS began, an accelerated integration timeline built on the company’s decade-plus experience in engineering, testing, and regulatory collaboration, including with the FAA, across multiple aircraft platforms. By successfully integrating and flying its technology on one of the world’s most versatile aircraft, Skyryse has successfully proven that SkyOS is aircraft-agnostic.

Mark Groden, Founder and CEO of Skyryse commented: “Today, SkyOS demonstrated its maturity and precision on a military-grade aircraft. The Black Hawk is one of the most proven, versatile aircraft in history, and while it’s still the same airframe that many operators know and trust, Black Hawk with SkyOS is fundamentally different aircraft in its capabilities, flexibility and safety. Watching this battle-proven aircraft auto-pickup with the single swipe of a finger, execute a perfect automated hover, effortlessly conduct flight maneuvers with a single control stick, and complete an automated setdown was incredible.”

Historically, industry timelines for technology integration to flight testing take months, years and in

some cases, decades. With a vertically integrated structure that allows Skyrise to develop, build, test, and fly in-house, the company was able to exceed expectations and its own ambitions.

Skyrise Test Pilot Eric Stierna, who has flown conventional UH-60 Black Hawks over the course of his career, was the first pilot to fly the Black Hawk with SkyOS installed. “Flying with SkyOS is truly a game changer,” he said. “I swiped my finger and climbed into a completely stable hover. I swiped again and descended into a perfect setdown. When we flew using SkyOS’ single control stick, we knew we were experiencing something completely new, an industry first. Bringing SkyOS to the Black Hawk feels like giving back to the community that shaped my development.”



The primary objective of its first Black Hawk flight was to confirm the integrated performance of SkyOS in real-world conditions, including handling qualities and verifying that all flight-critical functions behave exactly as predicted from ground and simulation testing. Skyrise attributes the rapid integration and successful first flight to its unique testing philosophy. To date, Skyrise has completed 10,000+ simulated flight hours including purposefully injected anomalies for added stress testing, as well as 2,800+ crewed flight hours with SkyOS.

Successfully executing an automated pickup, stable hover, precision flight maneuvers with a single control stick, and an automated setdown in a Black Hawk adds to a list of industry-first's from the company, including the first-ever automated takeoff, hover and landing at the swipe of a finger, as well as the world's first automated engine-out landing (autorotation), which is both a complex, and critical emergency maneuver.

When Skyrise received its first Black Hawk this summer, it featured a traditional architecture – complicated, mechanical linkages and analog systems, requiring high pilot workload at all times. In 91 days, Skyrise replaced legacy OEM with SkyOS, an intelligent, integrated system that gives pilots greater control by simplifying the management of any aircraft during standard flight operations, inclement weather, and emergencies. With a human-machine interface, SkyOS creates a synergistic partnership between human skill and intelligent automation, setting a new standard for safe aviation operations.

Black Hawk with SkyOS is a fully optionally-piloted aircraft that's easier, safer, and more intuitive to fly, with features including:

- Simplified flight controls, including a streamlined, intuitive interface that reduces pilot workload
- Dramatically improved visibility through a streamlined cockpit, increasing safety and mission effectiveness
- Inherent stability and real-time safety alerts, continuously monitoring terrain, obstacles, and surrounding aircraft
- Safe envelope protection and enhanced performance in limited visibility
- Reduced weight and added capability, a rare and critical advantage for payload-sensitive missions like military operations, medical evacuation, and aerial firefighting

Whether the mission calls for a flight that is dual-piloted, single-piloted, uncrewed or remote-piloted from a ground station, Black Hawk with SkyOS is capable of adapting across all mission profiles. This flexibility offers a powerful force multiplier for military, emergency response, air medical, and firefighting operators – delivering unprecedented, next-generation performance for critical missions. “SkyOS doesn’t promise capability someday. It delivers it now,” said Groden.

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