



The flightdeck would provide the functionality of multiple displays via a single touchscreen, tailored for individual pilots

Thales displays cockpit vision

French avionics supplier Thales (hall Concorde) is showing a next-generation cockpit concept demonstrator that provides most of the pilot displays and functions via a single touchscreen covering the entire main instrument panel.

The objective is to create a flightdeck that can be individually tailored to pilots' needs at different points in their mission and thus improve the interface between the aircraft and crew.

Instruments, controls, keyboards as well as maps, performance charts and synthetic vision displays can be freely moved across the screen, changed in size, hidden or brought up again in an intuitive manner similar to touchscreen-based consumer devices such as the Apple iPhone.

The idea is to turn the entire instrument panel into a gapless, interactive surface. This would not need to be flat but could involve bends, for example, to in-

clude the forward part of the central pedestal, which houses the flight management systems and radio control panels on many aircraft today.

Thales argues that, as the operating environment and avionics systems are becoming more complex, for example with four-dimensional navigation tracks in future air traffic management procedures, current generation cockpits will fail to deliver the increased volume of data in any

easily accessible manner. Flightcrew will thus not be able to exploit the full capabilities.

The new cockpit, named Odicis, is to process the increased amount of data and present only the relevant information to the flightcrew so that they can concentrate on flying the aircraft.

The concept is suited to commercial, business and military aircraft, both fixed and rotary wing, and could enter the market in 2020-25, said Thales.