THORNTON AVIATION INSTALLS FIRST SPACE X STARLINK SYSTEM ON A BOMBARDIER GLOBAL 5000

News / Business aviation, Maintenance / Trainings



Thornton Aviation has completed the integration and installation of Starlink on the first Global 5000 prototype aircraft, leading to an FAA STC. The aircraft is operated by Van Nuys-based Pegasus Elite Aviation. Business jet passengers expect to work and play in the air the same way they do on the ground, making inflight connectivity a must. Whether communicating with colleagues or streaming a movie to relax, travelers want a seamless connected experience. For a Global 5000 operated by Pegasus Elite Aviation, this meant installing the Space X Starlink system. A first, Thornton Aviation also performed the aircraft's 60-month maintenance inspection during the downtime.

Adam Stanley, deputy CEO of Pegasus Elite Aviation commented: "Pegasus Elite Aviation now has the first Starlink-enabled Global 5000. The system can establish and sustain a high-speed internet connection in flight. The aircraft will be available for charter as of October 10, 2024, via our website. For us to be able to offer this upgrade, it was important to choose a services provider with proven avionics and maintenance capabilities. Experience with Starlink was a plus. We found all that with Thornton Aviation. Combined with the Global 5000's range of 5,200 nautical miles, Starlink's connectivity makes it a trip like no other."

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Vince Russo, Thornton Aviation director of avionics said: “We have been steadily expanding our avionics and cabin connectivity offerings. In the past six months we’ve performed more than 20 installation projects ranging from small cockpit USB upgrades to full blown cabin management systems. The fact that our proven avionics skills are matched by our proven maintenance skills makes us a great choice for operators looking to take maximum advantage of their downtime and accomplish several workscopes at once. No matter what you fly or what cockpit and cabin solutions best fit your needs, we’ve got you covered.”

Previously, Thornton Aviation performed the first Starlink installation on a Gulfstream 650, and the company has a second Global 5000 scheduled. They also have installed Starlink on a Bombardier Global Express, and they have several additional Starlink projects scheduled for a variety of aircraft over the next 90 days.

Pegasus Elite Aviation partnered with Starlink and Thornton Aviation to develop and install the system on the Bombardier Global 5000. Starlink utilizes the low earth orbit constellation of approximately 6,000 satellites, providing unprecedented worldwide coverage. The high-speed internet enables download speeds of 200+ megabits per second, allowing HD streaming, Zoom video calls and large file downloads in flight.

An FAA Certified Repair Station, Thornton Aviation offers aircraft maintenance and avionics services for nearly every business aircraft type including scheduled and AOG support. In recent years, the avionics team has grown to a dozen skilled technicians, and they have earned dealer authorizations from Honeywell, Collins, Garmin, Universal, Alto, Gogo, Viasat, and Starlink.

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