



REDBIRD JOINS NATIONAL FLIGHT TRAINING ALLIANCE

The company will play a key role in advancing the utilization of modern training technologies under Part 141.

Oshkosh, WI (July 22, 2025) – At EAA AirVenture Oshkosh, Redbird Flight (Redbird) today announced its membership in the National Flight Training Alliance (NFTA), an association working to unify, promote, and protect the future of America’s flight training industry, in part through its role as the FAA-selected industry partner to coordinate efforts in the modernization of 14 CFR 141. As part of the company’s increased involvement with the association, Redbird COO Josh Harnagel has been appointed to the NFTA Board of Directors, where he serves as a member of the Subcommittee on Simulation, FTDs, and Modern Training Technologies, which is tasked with providing industry comments to the FAA for the Part 141 rewrite.

The last notable revision to Part 141 was in 1997. However, the FAA has acknowledged that even those changes did not account for technologies that have become commonplace today, such as global positioning systems, electronic flight bags, and flight simulators. Furthermore, despite the revision, the FAA published much of the current regulation before the mid-1970s. NFTA is collaborating with Redbird and other select general aviation partners and flight training providers to support the FAA in implementing a new regulatory framework suitable for a modern flight training environment, which includes embracing new technologies and training methods that benefit student outcomes and improving efficiencies that lead to cost reductions for students.

“We are excited to work with NFTA and an experienced group of industry experts to advance this critical initiative,” said Harnagel. “Making aviation more accessible and affordable has been core to the Redbird mission since the company’s founding in 2006, and Part 141 modernization is a unique opportunity to implement a regulatory structure that better enables many flight training organizations to achieve those goals. We applaud the FAA for collaborating with the industry on this opportunity to move flight training forward, and we are encouraged by the momentum and progress to date.”

Redbird began conducting an annual survey and report on the state of flight training in 2021, as the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic began to materialize across the industry. Rising costs for students have been a trend in the data over the past five years, with the median total cost to complete a private pilot certificate increasing by 56%, an instrument rating by 70%, and a commercial pilot certificate by 93%.

“It’s a complex issue that the group NFTA has assembled is addressing from several angles, but effective integration of aviation training devices into curricula can be a significant part of the solution for modern flight training organizations,” added Harnagel. “The rising costs of aircraft insurance, fuel, and maintenance—not to mention landing, tie-down, and hangar fees—have put considerable pressure on flight school margins. Not only are aviation training devices less expensive to operate than aircraft, but they also offer myriad learning benefits that help students progress more efficiently through their training. As the technology continues to advance—both the training devices and the applications that run on them—the benefits will be even more far-reaching for students and schools.”

The FAA has public meetings tentatively scheduled for later this year to discuss technology and learning topics pertinent to the Part 141 modernization initiative, including “emerging technologies such as aircraft, simulation, EFBs, [and] recordkeeping.” A primary hybrid (in-person and virtual) meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 7-8 in Fort Worth, Texas, and a secondary virtual meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 4-5. The

meetings are not considered finalized until listed in the Federal Register Notice. The FAA provides additional meeting information [here](#).

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About Redbird Flight

Redbird Flight of Austin, Texas, was established in 2006 with the specific purpose of making aviation more accessible by using modern technology and careful engineering. Since its inception, Redbird has delivered innovative, reliable, and high-quality training devices to flight schools, colleges, universities, K-12 schools, and individual pilots around the world. With more than 4,000 devices in service worldwide, Redbird has quickly become the fastest growing and most innovative simulator provider in the industry. For more information, please visit www.redbirdflight.com.