

Case Study: EMTEQ uses Airtel ATN's onsite test service to validate B767 Data Link and ACARS equipment



Objectives

- Offer Data Link ACARS testing for forward and retrofit aviation customers
- Increase service offering
- Independent Data Link testing

Why Airtel ATN

- Independent of manufacturer
- Portable, ruggedised test equipment providing ATN and ACARS testing
- Flexible - MTP can act as either ground station or aircraft

Results

- Test and re-test Data Link as needed
- Aircraft Data Link successfully validated
- Problems easily identified and significant cost savings made



Photo credit: Boeing

Background

Founded in 1996, EMTEQ is a worldwide leader in the aviation industry. The company specialises in avionics systems and products for retrofit and forward fit applications. Customers include: airframe and avionics equipment OEMs, system integrators, modification centres, engineering and leasing companies and military subcontractors.

EMTEQ has been contracted by Guggenheim Aviation Partners to manage the avionics modifications on three aircraft undergoing a passenger to cargo modification. EMTEQ is responsible for Data Link testing of the modified aircraft.

Enabling Technology

Airtel ATN's onsite test service involves an Airtel ATN engineer using Airtel ATN's Multi Test Platform (MTP). This is the only Data Link test station on site in Singapore and it can be operated as either an aircraft or a ground station.

Results

The tests took place on the first of these 3 aircraft in Singapore on a Boeing 767 (B767-300ER) in October 2013.

Airtel ATN's on site testing helped identify connectivity issues with the local ground station. This meant that the system could be reconfigured and retested without incurring any extra testing costs. In fact significant cost savings were made.

It also revealed the nature of the problems that existed when attempting to connect to the ARINC and SITA ground stations at Singapore Changi Airport. The problem was then easily rectified and retested successfully – again without incurring extra cost.

“Using Airtel ATN's onsite test service with the Multi Test Platform was invaluable. It mitigated the need to fly the aircraft to achieve connectivity with capable ground stations and allowed us to rapidly move through certification testing with the aircraft remaining on the ground. This enabled prompt troubleshooting and verification of the integrity of the installation. It also meant that we were not second guessing what was, or was not happening when exchanging Data Link communications with the ground.”

Chris Medlock, Product Manager, EMTEQ