

# AirTanker and RAF Brize Norton, UK

projectiondesign FL35 projectors send air tanker pilots flying

The DLP®LED option has had a real impact on reducing our maintenance costs and time spent servicing the simulator, and the pilots benefit from the same high visual quality at all times.



Max Wright,  
Training Services Manager



#### Barco solution:

- projectiondesign FL35 LED projectors

#### Key benefits:

- Unrivalled image quality
- Reliability
- Cost effectiveness

With approximately six thousand service personnel and fourteen hundred MOD civil servants and contractors, Brize Norton in Oxfordshire is the RAF's largest military base. From here, UK troops are deployed worldwide. Several training facilities prepare the armed forces for tactical operations in the field. One of these facilities is the AirTanker training center, featuring a state-of-the-art Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft (FSTA) simulator. To offer a lifelike experience, three projectiondesign FL35 LED projectors were installed last year.

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In-flight refueling offers many advantages for both military and commercial flights, such as the ability to remain airborne longer and to take off with a greater payload. The operation, however, is complex and risky; pilots spend several hours a day in the simulator to rehearse the procedure under all possible conditions. Only the best equipment is good enough to provide adequate training at all times.

The FL35 LED projectors drastically improved the operation uptime of the simulator. We no longer have to change lamps and recalibrate the projectors every 1000 hours and the image has remained stable and sharp now even after 13 months.



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## Requirements

In the quest for the best visualization solution for AirTanker's simulator, the integrator had to take a multitude of aspects into account. First and foremost, the system had to meet the Level D requirements for Zero Flight Time Training — the highest level of Full Flight Simulator qualification currently available. Second, to mimic lifelike situations, the images had to have the highest possible resolution (a requirement mandated by the details contained in the military database, and the fact that training is relative to other aircraft). Third, the images needed to be stable and consistent over time, without requiring regular maintenance and the corresponding losses in terms of both money and time. Last but not least, the total cost of ownership needed to be as low as possible.

## Eyes on the sky

After comparing several solutions, integrator RSI Visual Solutions determined that projectiondesign FL35 range of LED projectors was the only solution that could simultaneously meet all these needs while offering the best value for money. The FL35's 12.3 megapixel resolution ensures optimum image fidelity, enabling high levels of realism. "I've used a number of simulators over the last thirty years, both military and commercial," says Max Wright, Training Services Manager at AirTanker. "I have to say that the FL35 images are the most realistic we have ever encountered — absolutely sensational."

## Operation: Uptime

But the most important improvement may be the increase in uptime. "As the simulator is used for both military and commercial purposes, it is operative for approximately twelve hours a day," Wright explains. "This means we can't afford to lose time to defects and maintenance. The DLP® LEDs ensure stability and reliability, making recalibration and the frequent replacement of lamps unnecessary, which significantly increases uptime. As a result, the total cost of ownership is a lot lower as well."