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Launch of Revolutionary Aviation Product –Virtual Radar

Armchair air traffic controllers will soon be able to track aircraft on “personalised” radar at ranges up to 250 nautical miles, thanks to the recent of launch of UK-based Kinetic Avionic Products Limited of the SBS-1, a Mode-S/ADS-B receiver.

The system employs airborne transponders to provide altitude and identification data, with ADS-B adding global navigation data typically obtained from a GPS receiver.

Many civil aviation authorities already require aircraft to be Mode-S equipped for flights operating in designated airspace and soon for all categories of flights in all other airspace.



David Goodman, CEO of Kinetic Avionic Products, conceived the SBS-1 receiver during a conversation with colleagues, Keith Frewin and Derek Rowe. Goodman explained: “As well as being experts in the fields of hardware and software, the three of us are private pilots with a long interest in aviation. It was while discussing global Mode-S projects that we realised there was a market niche for a cost-effective Mode-S receiver.”

What Goodman and his team came up with is a product that utilises the latest electronics technology to provide a compact, robust and affordable receiving unit. When connected to a standard desktop or laptop PC running the specialist software Kinetic has products, it provides the user with a virtual radar screen showing the location and details of transmitting aircraft within detection range.

Goodman added: “This is a product that can play a role across many market segments, of which we will initially be targeting the small to medium sized airfield sector and the aviation enthusiast community.”

John Houlder, operator of Elstree Aerodrome, in the UK, described the equipment as being “a blessing to operators of small aerodromes which cannot support a full blown radar installation.”

It enables them to check that the aircraft in their vicinity are flying the correct routes as well as to assist aircraft wishing to land.