

modern regulatory standards and able to operate legally at its full weight capacity. In addition, Thrush will offer kits to current Thrush 510P operators that will allow their aircraft to be in compliance with the new certification standard as well. The kits will be available through the Thrush dealer and factory Service Centre network and are estimated to require roughly 24 man-hours to install.

The new certification covers Thrush 510P serial number T34-273 forward, which includes virtually every PT6A-34AG powered aircraft built since the new Thrush began being manufactured in 2003. Today, 510P serial number T34-455 is rolling off the assembly line, so roughly one hundred and eighty 510Ps already in the field will be eligible for the kit and its accompanying gross weight increase.

“Thrush Aircraft has and always will put pilot safety first and ensures that all of our aircraft are certified to the very latest standards and can safely work day in and day out at their full

operational weight which is a key element in doing just that,” said Payne Hughes, president of Thrush Aircraft. “We made a significant investment in putting our designs through the rigours of FAA performance and structural testing because our customers count on our airplanes to be fully capable of bringing them home safe and sound each night.

It is a responsibility all of us here take very seriously and loose guidelines and overload factors published more than 40 years ago do not instill the level of confidence we think customers deserve. Which is why we want to ensure our airplanes are always built to the highest standards possible.

What we now have; in both the Thrush 510P and the Thrush 510G are airplanes users can load to their maximum and have full confidence when they do. All day. Every day. You simply shouldn't settle for anything less,” Hughes concluded. 📷

## Century Avionics hosts Garmin seminar



*The group that attended the seminar*

On Tuesday 21 February, Century Avionics hosted a seminar attended by members of the Aviation Industry and Media at Maropeng, which is situated in the Cradle of Humankind. This is a paleoanthropological site about 50 kilometres northwest of Johannesburg, in the Gauteng province. Romain Spadiny, Garmin's Regional Aviation Sales Manager for Western Europe, the Middle East and Africa introduced the company's latest products including the G1000 NXi that was launched earlier this year and the G3X Touch electronic flight display system specifically designed for experimental / amateur built and light sport aircraft. Together Century Avionics and Garmin arranged for a few lucky 'draws' which resulted in Clive Rademan, Hendrik Smit and Graeme Wuth winning Garmin flight bags and Estelle Els who was delighted to win a Garmin D2 Bravo Titanium watch.

Garmin also donated two AERA 660 touch screen portable GPSs to the 'Flying for Rhino and Conservation Trust.' 'Flying for Rhino and Conservation Trust' is a registered NPO (Non-Profit Organisation) that was formed in response to the poaching crisis South Africa faces. Its mission is to provide free air support to game reserves where there are rhino and other endangered species. At AAD 2016 David Clark

sponsored two headsets to assist 'Flying for Rhino' in this mission and according to pilots from 'Flying for Rhino' it has helped them on several occasions. The Bluetooth feature has saved the day by allowing the pilot to phone ground units when radio communications are down, providing essential communications during an operation.

Rob Timcke from 'Flying for Rhino' said: “We currently run three operational aircraft, but only one has a GPS. Garmin learned of this and donated two Aera 660 GPSs, allowing all of our aircraft to be fitted with top of the range GPSs. Having a GPS on board is essential in the work that we do. Whether it be plotting the coordinates of a point of interest, or routing to an area of operation, the Aera 660 will greatly assist in our operations. We sincerely thank Garmin for its generous equipment donation.”

If you would like to support 'Flying for Rhino' operations, please see contact details below. All financial assistance goes directly to operations, and it provides a complete breakdown of operational running costs. They are SARS audited and provide 18A tax exemption to donors. 📷