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## Zen's Foray into Aviation Simulation Training Solutions

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### Zen's Foray into Aviation Simulation Training Solutions

The Indian Defence Force is one of the largest globally needing to operate in some of the most demanding and diverse environments in the world; from desert to the mountains and across jungles in adverse climatic conditions, and hostile environment. Per the estimates from The Ministry of Defence, Government of India is expected to spend over 200 Billion Dollars over the next ten years in acquiring assets to modernise our defence forces. A large portion of the funds will be utilised to acquire aircraft, both fixed and rotary wing.



Zen UAV Mission Simulator

For efficiency and effectiveness of any force waging the war, state of the art equipment is critical to be able to meet both its current and future defensive and offensive requirements. The first step towards ensuring effective utilization of the infrastructure and resources is appropriate training for gaining thorough knowledge of the system and its pitfalls, especially applicable for complex aviation assets. Theoretical knowledge of the system can be provided in classrooms by instructors through lectures and/ or computer based training systems. While it sufficiently provides adequate knowledge of the system, it does not allow for practical system usage and hence a large void is created between gaining knowledge and developing expertise.

It is of paramount importance that our Forces are trained to become operational experts and hence they must train for the complex battle conditions and adversities. The modern equipment being acquired for our defence forces are highly capable, but require well trained personnel to achieve their desired level of performance. Cost, operational demands, environmental and political concerns are limiting factors in conducting 'live' training.

To a large extent, future wars will be controlled by technology. As conflicts become infrequent, training and mission rehearsals will be the main occupation of the Armed Forces during times of peace. Simulation has emerged as the ineluctable training tool and simulators are now regarded as "Passive Force Multipliers". In the future, every aspect of conflict, symmetric or otherwise, will be practiced in a simulated environment before being conducted in a real-world situation.

We, at Zen Technologies, have over the past two decades invested in understanding the training needs of our defence forces and supplied hundreds of simulator devices to meet their training requirements. Our research and technology have contributed in developing the skills of our ground forces at individual levels. The need of the hour is to develop technology for offering networked team training and expand to our air warriors.

Our forces need to be trained to face any or all eventualities, and hence we need to provide them with a holistically designed training center, comprising academic courseware, simulator training networked which allows free play, tactical development and mission rehearsal coupled with actual training on live equipment. All these elements are essential to achieve enhanced operational effectiveness while significantly reducing operational costs.

Zen Technologies has a very long and proud history with the Indian defence forces and has been the pioneer in providing land based simulator devices. Currently there are a number of simulation companies in India who have emerged in the last 5 years to address the needs of the armed forces but their approach is limited to sourcing different pieces of technology for supplying to customer. This inhibits offering the right level of operational training fidelity and also creates a challenge for future upgrades and long term support. We develop indigenous simulation

technology and build simulation products based on the operational training needs and requirements of our forces. We continue to highly invest in Next Generation technology and over the past few years have spent over INR 700 Million in building indigenous technologies and products. Zen's R&D facility is recognized by Ministry of Science and Technology. Today, Zen has a portfolio of over 30 Made in India Simulator products which can meet the various ground based training needs of our defence forces and the para- military forces.

Zen is also continuously and proactively working to build further technologies keeping in sight the future acquisitions and the "Make in India" philosophy of the present government and our Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Zen has recently signed a strategic partnership with Rockwell Collins to provide our defence forces, with advanced flight simulation technologies and products locally made in India by India by Zen. While Zen will provide indigenous solutions where available with Zen, any gaps in the solution will be addressed by the partnership. Rockwell Collins is a world leader in flight simulation and this collaboration will help bring world class technology to India. The long wait for an indigenously developed and manufactured flight simulation solution is over...time to say "Ache Din Agaye" for the Indian aviation users.

Watch out for Zen at the Aero India 2015 at Yelahanka, Bangalore where we will be unveiling some of our world class products for the Indian aviation community.

*Mr. HJ Kamath is the Senior Vice President, Zen Technologies*



**By** Mr. HJ Kamath

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