

Forest Protection Limited

Forest Protection Limited is a private company owned by a group of New Brunswick Forest Stakeholders. Since its incorporation in 1952, the Forest Protection Limited mandate has been to protect forests with services such as fire management, pest management and aerial surveys.

The company works regularly with a variety of organizations including provincial departments of Natural Resources and Environment, private companies, and federal departments such as the Canadian and United States Forest Services. Their activities with these organizations include Research and Development partnerships, forest fire suppression new technology testing, and insect control.



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Case Study: Forest Protection Limited

ATP Aviation Hub™ Cloud Application Lets Canadian Company Dispose Of Disks

When the maintenance staff of Forest Protection Limited heard about the ATP Aviation Hub™ Cloud Application, Mario Morales, the Fredericton, New Brunswick-based company's Director of Maintenance decided to put it through a trial run. Within just a few months, Morales was able to conclude that it had already saved the company considerable time and expense in the maintenance and servicing of a highly diversified aircraft fleet, including 15 piston and seven turbine engines.

Founded in 1952, and owned jointly by the New Brunswick provincial government and the forest products industry in the Canadian maritime province, the company's primary mission is fire protection and pest control for its owners and some outside customers, on contract. To do that, it operates 15 aircraft, currently composed of seven Air Tractor AT-802s, which includes one that is float-equipped; two Cessna 337s, two Cessna 188s, and four Piper Aerostars. The Air Tractors, used for both firefighting and pest control, are single, turbine-engine driven, while the remainder of the fleet is single or twin-piston powered, and used for observation and pest control.

Fleet maintenance, Morales explained, is carried out totally in-house in two hangars--of 8,000 and 12,000 square feet, in Fredericton, where a staff of seven technicians perform line level through major airframe and engine inspections and repairs. Forest Protection Limited's subscription to the ATP Aviation Hub includes internet access to nine OEM libraries, specifically selected by the operator for Air Tractor, Cessna, Continental Motors, Hartzell Propellers, Lycoming, McCauley Propellers, Pratt & Whitney Canada, Teledyne Continental and Textron Lycoming."

"The ATP Aviation Hub gives us two advantages," said Morales. "One is the ability to go to a single source in order to get what we need, because the libraries are all located in one place. The second is cost."

As Morales pointed out, prior to subscribing to the ATP Aviation Hub this year, Forest Protection Limited relied on multiple suppliers of digital maintenance manuals--supplied on CDs.

"Given the number of aircraft and engine types that we have, the subscription costs were adding up and getting expensive," he remarked. "Also, with so many different libraries, keeping track of all of the subscriptions we had with different vendors was becoming a problem, given that we had so many other issues to track."

Morales noted that prior to subscribing to the ATP Aviation Hub, the company had to deal with 14 different subscriptions to OEM maintenance libraries. In many cases, the CDs relied on different programs, which made getting the information a time consuming process for the technicians.

That led to another issue. The CDs would be updated by their vendors every three months. However, more urgent updates, such as airworthiness directives or service bulletins issued in the interim periods would be sent from the vendors by email. That information was stored separately. The result was that when making a repair, the technicians had to refer not only to the information on the CD, but do a search for any additional information that had been emailed.

“It was a two-step process, which added to the inefficiencies of the CDs,” said Morales. In addition, we had to navigate among different windows to get the information we needed, instead of going to just one screen, as we do with ATP. Along with the system’s one-screen convenience, we estimate that by going with the ATP Aviation Hub™ Online Service, we are realizing about a 30 percent savings in subscription costs.”

The capability of accessing information from any location is one of the system’s major selling points. “To use the system, the only requirement is a web browser and an internet connection, which will make it much

easier for us to repair or service an aircraft away from base,” Morales reported.

Over the past two months, Morales said, the company has accessed the ATP Aviation Hub from its maintenance hangars, as well as from locations in the field.

“It is working the way we expected,” he said. “The search boxes on the website make it very convenient and time saving to search for parts or procedures. The parts and procedure information is delivered in a much more timely manner, because, with the click of a mouse, we are going to a single point of contact, instead of having to search through individual CDs. It really comes down to how fast I can find information about products from multiple vendors.”

**CONTACT ATP TO LEARN HOW THE
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YOUR MAINTENANCE OPERATION.**

ATP

101 South Hill Drive
Brisbane, CA 94005
800-227-4610 (U.S. and Canada)
(+1) 415-330-9500 (Worldwide)
www.atp.com

sales@atp.com



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