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Media Contact: Christine Hall
+1 800 660 9982, ext 718
Christine@SmartSkyNetworks.com

Avidyne Contact: Tom Harper
+1 781 402 7434
tharper@avidyne.com



Avidyne Announces Partnership with SmartSky Networks to Develop Certified Products for Airborne Connectivity

Avidyne to manufacture, certify and support air-to-ground wireless connectivity products for SmartSky Networks

MELBOURNE, F.L. – Avidyne Corporation today announced a strategic partnership with SmartSky Networks, a high performance air-to-ground connectivity network operator, in which Avidyne will become a channel partner in providing and supporting SmartSky's airborne products into the U.S. general aviation industry.

"SmartSky Networks is developing innovative data and voice communications solutions and we are delighted to be partnered with them to bring this advanced technology to market," said Dan Schwinn, Avidyne's President & CEO. "Along with our previously-announced in-flight connectivity partnership, this relationship with SmartSky Networks fits nicely with our overall strategy to be a leading provider of in-flight connectivity solutions for all of aviation."

"In addition to the obvious benefits of text communication and basic browsing, high-bandwidth, full-time internet connectivity is going to completely change the flight deck and passenger experience in ways we can't yet imagine, as it has in home and mobile communications" Schwinn added.

"Avidyne has been instrumental in supporting SmartSky Network's initial flight testing and certification efforts" said Stan Eskridge, SmartSky Chief Business Development Officer. "Avidyne's 22 years of experience and expertise in the certified avionics market were key factors in our decision to select them as our production and support partner for our certified airborne radios, antennas, and ship kits."

Products currently being developed by SmartSky are targeted for mid-size and larger cabin business aviation and commercial aircraft operators. SmartSky and Avidyne will work together to provide products and services with price/ performance points targeted for the light general aviation aircraft up through the low end of the business aviation market, which are not currently served. Under the terms of their agreement, Avidyne will get Parts Manufacturing Authorization (PMA) for the new hardware, provide ground- and flight-test services, and develop the initial Supplemental Type Certification (STC) for installation.

Further announcements for specific SmartSky-enabled products and services will be forthcoming.

ABOUT SMARTSKY NETWORKS

SmartSky Networks, formed in 2011, is composed of seasoned aviation and telecommunications executives seeking to transform aviation using disruptive communications technologies. In conjunction with leading aerospace and technology partners, SmartSky plans to roll out its innovative, beamforming based air-to-ground network, SmartSky 4G, later this year with nationwide coverage slated for 2017. www.smartskynetworks.com.

ABOUT AVIDYNE CORPORATION

Avidyne's continuing leadership in innovation and its Flying Made Simple™ system design make flying safer, more accessible and more enjoyable for pilots and their passengers. The company offers a full line of panel-mounted avionics including their new IFD540 and IFD440 FMS/GPS/NAV/COM, AMX240 audio panel, and DFC90 digital flight control systems. With a complete range of ADS-B products, including the AXP322 and AXP340 Mode S Transponders with ADS-B Out, the MLB100 and TAS-A with ADS-B In, and the IFD540 and IFD440 GPS position sources, Avidyne provides complete support for the worldwide Nexgen ATC surveillance upgrade. Headquartered in Melbourne, FL, the company has additional facilities in Westerville, OH, and Lincoln, MA. <http://www.avidyne.com>