

## Return of the Eclipse

The Eclipse light business jet is back, this time in the form of the 550 offered by Eclipse Aerospace, based in Charleston, S.C.

In October, the company said the Eclipse 550, with a base price of \$2.7 million, will have the same airframe and Pratt & Whitney engines of the original Eclipse 500, and will include enhanced avionics systems from Innovative Solutions & Support (IS&S), of Exton, Pa.

Eclipse said it expects to make 50 to 100 per year with deliveries in 2013.

Eclipse Aviation, founded in 1998, developed, manufactured and delivered about 250 Eclipse 500s before a lack of funding shutdown the company in 2008. The company filed for bankruptcy protection in 2009 and was purchased by a group of investors, rebranded as Eclipse Aerospace. Last year, the company secured a minority stakeholder in Sikorsky Aircraft.

“We expect a robust customer response based on the support we’ve received from current Eclipse owners, our suppliers and the aviation community in general. Ultimate production and production levels will be driven by overall market demand, and we couldn’t be more excited or optimistic,” said Mason Holland, CEO and chairman of Eclipse Aerospace.

IS&S is providing the electronic flight instrument system (EFIS) portion of the Eclipse’s integrated Avio FMS package. The IFMS received an FAA supplemental type certificate in March.

IS&S will provide a version of the glass panel Vantage Premier avionics suite that features two 10.4-inch displays on each side, plus a 15-inch center primary flight display (PFD), Ross Cairns, IS&S vice president of business development, commercial and general aviation, told *Avionics Magazine*.

Other avionics enhancements in the Eclipse 550 include expanded aircraft computer systems and integrated avionics package, which will now support features such as Synthetic Vision, Enhanced Vision, dual-mode FMS, TAWS, TCAS-1, ADS-B, on-board color radar, Radar Altimeter and iPad data entry integration.

Eclipse Aerospace said it will become the first in its industry to offer Auto-Throttles as an option for the Eclipse 550.