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SEA Piper Seminole Installation

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Southeast Aerospace of Melbourne, Florida recently completed and certified an extensive retrofit for New Piper Aircraft of Vero Beach on a 2004 Piper Seminole (PA-44-180). Following a facility inspection, a contractual agreement was reached. The modification was performed at Southeast Aerospace Corporate Headquarters at Melbourne International Airport. The retrofit consisted of relocating the existing Garmin GNS-430 and GTX-330 standard from the Piper factory panel and adding a GNS-530, KR-87 ADF, and KI-825 EHSI into the panel. S-Tec System 55X was also installed and coupled to the Garmin GNS for GPS roll steering. A GDL-49 datalink system and L3/Goodrich WX-500 was also installed and interfaced to the Garmin GNS. The installation was seamless with the exception of the KI-825 EHSI which required extra attention due to its advanced features and interfaces. In particular, special consideration were required when attempting to interface GPS roll steering through the KI-825. Software in the KI-825 did not allow GPS/NAV CDI selection solely be the CDI selection on the Garmin GNS-430/530. The aircraft was successfully delivered and is being operated by The Florida Institute of Technology aviation department for flight training.