



Press Release

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TKM Avionics reintroduces new-built, IFR/TSO'd slide-in, owner-installable \$2,650 navcoms that replace King, Narco and Cessna/ARC series radios; Over 37,000 sold since 1965

March 27, 2015, Scottsdale, AZ—One of the world's most prolific but least-advertised manufacturers of navcoms for GA aircraft is TKM Avionics, formerly TKM Michael Avionics. TKM, now owned by former AmSafe CEO Ken Beckemeyer, is a new company with a long history that has delivered over 37,000 legacy replacement navcoms since 1969. Ken is a 30-year veteran of GA and air transport manufacturing and engineering programs while at the helm of AmSafe. He believes TKM navcoms fill a niche for owners who want a value-priced, reliable, IFR navcom – that can be installed in minutes while saving thousands on installation-- and without losing weeks of downtime in the shop.

“TKM builds all-new IFR/TSO'd navcoms that replace legacy radios that are no longer supported. All TKM comm or navcom radios are built to slide-in, to precisely fit legacy racks and connectors, virtually eliminating installation costs for most owners,” says Beckemeyer.

TKM navcoms replace a variety of radios including the Narco Comm11 series, KX-170/175 and the Cessna/ARC RT385 series navcoms, including 328,508 and 528. Using all-new components with digital flip-flop tuning, TKM replacement navcoms offer better channel stability and audio quality than the 40-year old units they replace.

Priced at \$2,650, a fraction of the cost of other comparable new TSO'd navcoms, TKM's MX170 and Cessna 300/385 series navcoms and \$1,450 MX-11 com make it possible for owners to install a new radio in minutes. TKM units replicate the functions of legacy navcoms and drive existing VOR/ILS heads with the same output.

Beckemeyer says that while TKM navcoms can be found in fixed wing and rotary aircraft operating all over the world, the previous company's lack of advertising has created some misunderstandings—including rumors of the company's demise over the past few years—and the misperception that TKM radios were re-built from old King, Narco or Cessna radios.

“Our TKM legacy replacement navcoms are not just economical to buy—these radios can be installed quickly by the pilot. This is the answer for aircraft owners who need a quality, reliable back up or primary IFR/TSO'd Navcom for a total price of \$2,650—without additional installation costs” –Ken Beckemeyer, CEO

“First, TKM builds radios with all new components and digital flip flop tuning displays; these aren't old radios rebuilt to look new. Secondly, TKM has operated continuously since 1965. Without any advertising support from the company until now, our long-term distributors including Spruce Aircraft and EDMO have continuously sold our navcoms with no gaps for many, many years.”

“All of our new 'slide-in' replacement units ship from the factory with a 2-year warranty. Now, more than ever, we're focused on quality and advanced engineering to ensure our systems offer 'plug and play' ease of installation. We're also working on innovations such as Bluetooth connectivity and 8.33khz EASA compliant models,” he points out.

TKM's line of IFR/TSO'd VOR/ILS NAV/COMS and test equipment deliver reliability and performance for less than half the cost of comparable systems. To complete installation, owners, make a simple aircraft logbook entry and then, to be legal for IFR flight, perform customary VOR accuracy testing in the air or on the ground that all pilots do routinely.

Beckemeyer adds, “In fact, FAR 43 specifically allows the owner/operator to install approved replacement avionics with only a simple airframe logbook entry. They fit into the same racks and weigh the same as the units they replace. Operators can literally

remove the old units and plug in the new ones themselves, make a quick notation in the logbook, and get back into the air in a matter of minutes.”

“The owner pilot who operates a \$30,000 to \$100,000 value airplane appreciates functionality and might not be interested in spending a 20-30 percent of the aircraft’s value on a new navcom. We’re talking about owner-pilots that want to communicate effectively, air to ground, and have the reliability of an inexpensive VOR/ILS nav capability in addition to GPS/iPad or certified GPS nav systems. This customer might not want to upgrade to glass and train on an all-new system.

“TKM offers a new-built navcom that meets their needs and permits them to operate in any class of airspace. They can replace their worn-out equipment with brand new, high quality, built-from-scratch navcoms for \$2,600. That’s a message we’re anxious to share with customers. We’ve already talked to a lot of them and we’re saying ‘We’re here with affordable, reliable and easy to install answers.’”

During AEA, TKM will be located at Booth # 127.

TKM Navcoms

TKM offers a four radio lines that are slide-in replacements for Narco, King and ARC units:

[MX 11 COMM](#)

The MX 11 COMM is designed as a slide in replacement for the NARCO COM 11, COM 11A, COM 11B, COM 111, COM 111B and COM 120. The unit will replace the COM 10 and COM 110 when the NAV 10 and NAV 110 are not used in the system.

[MX 170C NAV/COMM](#)

The MX 170c is designed to be electrically and mechanically interchangeable with the KX170 175 series of NAV-COMM’s.

MX 385 NAV/COM

The MX 385 is designed to be electrically and mechanically interchangeable with the RT385 and RT485 and is available with either beige or black faceplate.

MX300 NAV/COMM

The MX 300 NAV/COMM is designed to replace the RT328T and similar units. In most installations the MX 300 will directly replace the RT308C, RT328T, RT328A, RT528E,

About TKM

Located at the Scottsdale Air Park in Arizona, TKM Avionics provides new-built, top quality, reliable, and reasonably priced avionics and test equipment for General Aviation throughout the United States and worldwide. To date, over 37,000 TKM Inc. replacement radios have been placed into field service. For more information contact TKM Avionics at 1-800-233-4183 or on the Internet at www.tkmavionics.com.

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