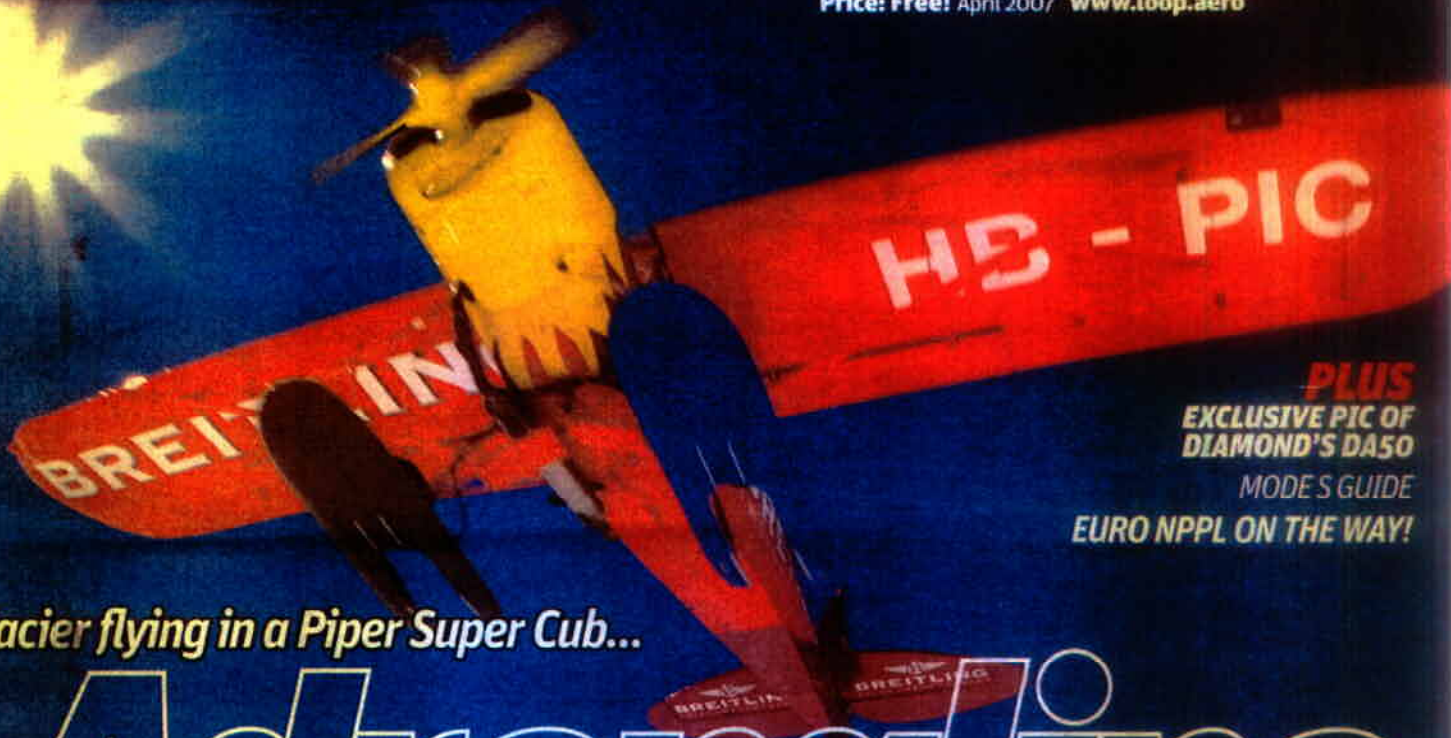


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THE REAL PRIZE BEHIND MODE S IS... ADS-B

MODE S offers little to General Aviation as it stands but there are benefits on the horizon – another surveillance technology known as ADS-B.

The key thing about Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast is that the aircraft tells anyone with the right receiver where it is. That receiver is not radar but can be a simple radio receiver linked to a PC.

British company Kinetic Avionics developed a low-cost simple receiver and display system to help its own research into ADS-B products. The company realised what it had and has now sold more than 4500 units worldwide.

ADS-B uses position info from the aircraft's GPS and all the other info supplied to the Mode S unit to announce its position, speed, altitude, heading etc. So other aircraft with the right display can see other aircraft around it. Controllers – or anyone with an interest in aircraft positions – can see the same. For instance, a flying school could 'see' where all its aircraft are. It could track a student pilot on a solo cross-country and pick up problems early.

ADS-B has massive appeal for countries like Australia with a huge area to cover, limited radar and growing air traffic. It can provide surveillance in mountainous and remote areas where radar just doesn't work well – tests have been going on in Alaska, for instance. There are many other benefits from ADS-B and this is the real prize.



|| This is a screenshot of the display generated by Kinetic Avionics' SBS-1 Real-time Virtual Radar... on a