
A history of technological advancement

Aerospace Optics is recognized throughout the aviation industry for offering technology-based solutions that continue to meet the changing requirements for cockpit illumination and rugged/high reliability operator interface. Here are a few examples from our history:

Sunlight readability

Pilots have continuously experienced difficulties in discerning their switches and indicators clearly in direct sunlight. Over 25 years ago Aerospace Optics engineered a sunlight-readable, pushbutton switch to provide true readings even in the most demanding, direct-sunlight situations. Our innovations greatly improved visibility and virtually eliminated this concern for pilots and their crews.

NVIS compatibility

When military strategists began to require more night-time flight operations using night vision goggles, Aerospace Optics went to work developing filtering technology to reduce the dangerous goggle interference that can occur with traditional cockpit lighting. Our research led to revolutionary lighting technology that allows pilots to safely use Night Vision Imaging Systems without fear of interference or added glare, while still maintaining sunlight readability.

Programmable displays

As the use of multifunction displays emerged, Aerospace Optics introduced an electro-optical, programmable display system: the VIVISUN 5000. The VIVISUN 5000 is a unique combination of our traditional tactile pushbutton switches and a reconfigurable display that interfaces with the host computer.

LED lighting with voltage-controlled dimming in 11 colors

The predecessor to the VIVISUN LED was the incandescent light, which required frequent bulb replacement and generated excessive heat. To combat these problems, Aerospace Optics developed the VIVISUN LED, a reliable, nearly maintenance-free LED switch that offers a 55-percent reduction in power requirements and simple voltage-controlled dimming. Today, LED technology is virtually standard in all modern aircraft.

A larger, more-readable LED

In response to customer requests for a larger LED switch, Aerospace Optics developed the VIVISUN LR3, a 1-inch by 1.2-inch rectangular LED switch. With a larger display area than the standard 3/4-inch switch, the LR3 is ideal for master caution and master warning switch applications.

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1 888-VIVISUN

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Part-specification at your fingertips

In an effort to enhance its ongoing commitment to customer service, Aerospace Optics introduced the VIVISUN configurator, an online part-specification system that enables the user to specify complete part numbers and request a quote anytime day or night. The configurator guides customers through the part-number design process, allowing them to select the enclosure, actuation, legend, ground and termination type, as well as optional upgrades, such as EMI shielding or NVIS-compliant lighting.

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Aerospace Optics continues to set industry standards

For more than 40 years, Aerospace Optics has been recognized throughout the aviation industry for offering technology-based solutions that continue to meet the changing requirements for cockpit illumination and rugged/high reliability operator interface. We continue to break ground in new areas, such as reducing power consumption, improving installation efficiencies and ensuring maintenance-free operations. We are proud that our innovations continue to set aviation industry standards.

1968

Aerospace Optics Inc. is incorporated in Fort Worth, Texas, as a manufacturer of “build-to-print” Mil-Spec lighted products, including edge-lighted panels, knobs and annunciators for use in aircraft cockpits.

1970s

Aerospace Optics develops and implements systems that enhance its reputation for quality products and defect-free parts. The company introduces the VIVISUN 99 illuminated pushbutton switch, which features incandescent bulb lighting, and revolutionizes aircraft crew station lighting with sunlight readability. Importantly, it gained immediate acceptance as the de facto standard in aircraft crew station lighting in both the military and commercial aircraft markets.

Late 1970s - 1980s

Technological innovations continue with the VIVISUN 99, including drip-proof/dust-proof, split-ground, EMI and night-vision-goggle compatibility options. The switch qualifies as a Mil-Spec pushbutton switch and is listed on the Qualified Products List for the U.S. Department of Defense, cementing Aerospace Optics’ reputation as a leader in industry innovation.

1982

Aerospace Optics installs its in-house customer service computer system to assure error-free order entry along with its already recognized high quality products.

1983

Aerospace Optics moves to a new 32,000 square-foot facility on a 15-acre campus in Fort Worth, Texas, and continues to grow market share with both commercial and military aviation customers.

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1987

Aerospace Optics introduces the VIVISUN 95, which features all the options available on previous products, plus provides a QUIK-CONNECT™ system to improve assembly line installation. A space-saving version of the switch is introduced for added flexibility in tight quarters, and VIVISUN switches gain additional exposure on marine vessels and ground vehicles.

1988

The company introduces its first programmable multifunction display pushbutton switch – the VIVISUN 2000, which is also the first switch to use a light emitting diode (LED) lighting source.

1990s

With a full product line available, engineering innovations continue and market penetration increases. Product improvements in areas such as reliability, increased color selection, custom artwork and pulse-width modulation enhance the VIVISUN brand.

1992

The VIVISUN 5000 multi-function, programmable switch advances sunlight readability still further with LED lighting and NVIS compliance.

2001

Aerospace Optics launches its most advanced lighted pushbutton switch: the VIVISUN LED, which is introduced to the marketplace as the ultimate solution for maintenance-free, sunlight-readable, NVIS-compatible, lighted pushbutton switch technology.

2002

Aerospace Optics continues to be the only vendor to consistently deliver its LED product on time, as promised, to a growing list of aircraft industry customers in both military and commercial market segments. Product performance is exceeded only by the company's commitment to quality customer service.

2007

Aerospace Optics expands the VIVISUN product line by introducing the LR3, a 1-inch by 1.2-inch, LED switch. Like the standard 3/4-inch LED, the LR3 is a lighted pushbutton switch that is available in 11 sunlight-readable colors. The LR3 is NVIS compliant, has voltage-controlled dimming, a low touch temperature and low power consumption, drawing a maximum of only 0.054 amps at 28VDC.

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In 2007, Aerospace Optics also adds three new sales offices to meet the growing demand for cutting-edge avionics technology in Europe. The new offices are located in France, Italy and the U.K.

2008

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Corporate leaders deliver experience, dedication to quality

Our professionals are profoundly dedicated to the research, development and delivery of high quality, lighted pushbutton switches, programmable displays and accessories.

John Dillow Chairman & CEO

John Dillow has been a key member of the Aerospace Optics team for nearly 40 years. As chairman and CEO, John upholds Aerospace Optics' commitment to quality, product research and innovation, efficient product processing, and the development of human resources to continually advance illuminated, pushbutton switch technologies.

Loren Jensen President & COO

Loren Jensen has a vast engineering background and broad experience as a financial executive, which has given him a deep understanding of both the customers' needs and those of the company. Prior to joining Aerospace Optics in May 2006, Loren was CFO of the retail company Tuesday Morning Corporation and served in various executive financial positions for retail electronics giant RadioShack Corporation. Additionally, Loren was a senior vice president for Chase Manhattan Bank.

Craig Morgan Vice President of Sales

Craig Morgan has been serving the needs of Aerospace Optics' customers for more than 20 years. As a licensed pilot, Craig is personally linked to the company's products and has a first-hand appreciation for the importance of meeting the end user's needs. Craig's ability to work side-by-side with customers to find the right solutions for their needs helps him ensure total customer satisfaction.

JM Davis Vice President of Finance

Since joining the company in 1977, JM Davis has used his experience in accounting, information systems and materials management to benefit both the company and its customers. JM continually improves and updates the IT system, ensuring that other managers have access to timely information for decision-making. His responsive IT system evolves with the constantly changing needs of the customer. JM also administers Human Resource benefits.

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Brian Wish

Quality Control Manager

Brian Wish joined Aerospace Optics in 2006, taking over as quality control manager in 2007. Prior to joining Aerospace Optics, Brian worked for seven years for General Motors. At General Motors, he filled a variety of positions in quality, where he gained experience in research and development, as well as manufacturing. Brian's depth and breadth of knowledge of quality systems and techniques makes him well suited to keep Aerospace Optics at the forefront of quality management practices. Brian is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, and he currently serves in the U.S. Air Force Reserves. He also holds a Certified Quality Engineer (CQE) designation from the American Society for Quality (ASQ).

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Aerospace Optics: product applications

When it comes to aircraft electronics, designers, maintenance professionals and pilots all agree: They want high quality, reliability and a maintenance-free product that will help keep their aircraft in service as much as possible. Because VIVISUN switches meet these criteria (and more!), they are used in a wide range of applications, including:

Controls and systems management:

AFFF systems
Air defense systems
Arresting gear controls
ASW systems
Automatic test systems
BITE systems
Checklists
Cockpit controls
Communications systems
ELINT systems
ESM systems
EW simulators
Engine controls
Fault management systems
Flight system controls
FLIR systems
ICOLS
IFF systems
IRCM systems
Landing gear controls
Pump controls
Pre-fly controls
Shipboard controls
Steering controls
Stores controls
TAWS
Vehicle maintenance systems
WAAS

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VIVISUN pushbutton switches meet military standards

Aerospace Optics' Mil-Spec pushbutton switches are available with solder terminals or solderless CTS for easy installation. They are compliant with the applicable requirements of MIL-PRF-22885, MIL-S-22885, MIL-STD-202, MIL-STD-810, MIL-STD-901D, MIL-STD-411, MIL-STD-108, MIL-P-7788, MIL-L-85762A, MIL-STD-3009, ASC/ENFC 96-01 and JSSG-2010-5.

In addition, Aerospace Optics' quality system is ISO9001:2000 and AS9100:2001 Section 1 certified and its lab is DSCC certified for testing to the requirements of MIL-PRF-22885, MIL-S-22885 and MIL-STD-202.

To view quality management system certificate, visit:

www.vivisun.com/pdf/AS9100_2006.pdf.

To view qualification notification, visit: www.vivisun.com/pdf/QPL_qualification.pdf.