

Operator Performance Lab

Piston Aircraft

IOWA



Affordable airborne testbeds and Unmanned Aircraft Surrogates for testing of sensors, avionics, digital communications systems, and more



LET OPL SERVE YOUR FLIGHT TEST NEEDS

IOWA

Technology
Institute

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FULL SERVICE FLIGHT TESTING

Two piston engine, fixed-wing general aviation aircraft are available for flight testing needs. The Beechcraft A36 Bonanza and Cessna 172 Skyhawk are capable of carrying a range of equipment making it ideal for early stage research and development at a lower cost than higher end jets and helicopters. The Bonanza is frequently used as a UAS surrogate to test data link connectivity.

Beechcraft A36 Bonanza

- Specifications:
 - Crew: 3 (1 pilot, 1 copilot, 1 Flight Test Engineer)
 - Range: 716 NM
 - Service Ceiling: 18,500 feet
 - Cruise Speed: 176 kts
- Dynon SkyView Flight Displays, rapidly reversible to Collins Proline Fusion EDS
- UAS Surrogacy Capability
 - Capability to equip CNPC control datalink to emulate UAS
 - Also supports secure radio datalink installation
- Belly plate
- Rear cargo area
 - Room for equipment and FTE
 - Removable hardware rack capable of multiple applications / configurations
- Collins Proline Fusion
- Digital Auto-Pilot
 - Aileron, Elevator, and Rudder Control
- Power Systems
 - 2V DC
 - 28V DC
 - 110V AC

Cessna 172 Skyhawk

- Specifications
 - Crew: 2
 - Range: 700 NM
 - Service Ceiling: 13,500 feet
 - Cruise Speed: 122 kts
- 120V AC Inverter
- Used primarily as chase plane for UAS operations

