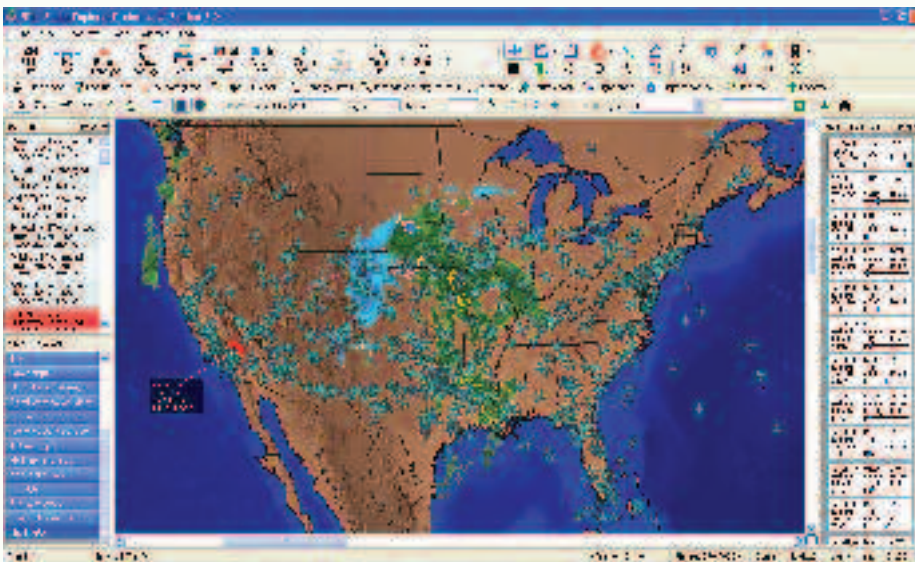


FLIGHT Explorer

One company making

Flight Explorer is one of many corporations helping public benefit flying in the U.S.

by Dustin Gouker
Aero Staff Writer



Screen shots of Flight Explorer's software.

Each year many companies in the aviation industry help Public Benefit Flying (PBF) in some way. This help can be in the form of money, aircraft or simply time.

Flight Explorer, a leading provider of global flight tracking products, donates something a little different which helps nearly all public benefit flying organizations successfully complete their missions. For PBF organizations, Flight Explorer provides its real-time web-based flight tracking system free of charge. This is something the company has done since September 11, 2001 initially helping Angel Flight of Georgia (AFG) keep track of their pilots and aircraft helping during the disaster. "They became aware of our disaster relief

missions and donated their services to us," Jeanine Chambers, AFG Executive Director, wrote in a letter praising Flight Explorer. "In the first 24 hours, Flight Explorer helped."

Founded in 1997, Flight Explorer offers the public a resource to manage and track aircraft while in the air providing global flight tracking, information technology and communications solutions. The cost of Flight Explorer's service, about \$300 a month for professional users, is outside of the means of most PBF organizations, but Flight Explorer overlooks that cost to help organizations doing not-for-profit work in aviation.

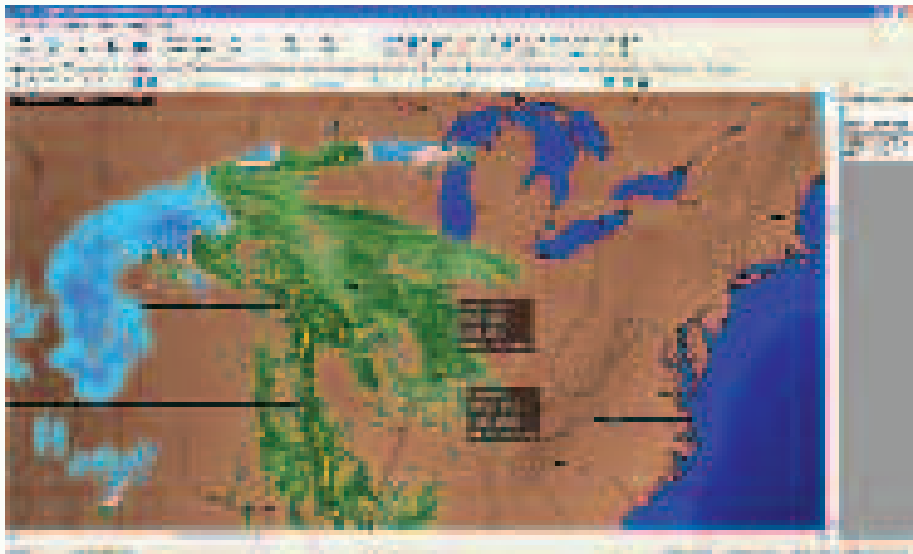
"We found out that some of these organizations were using or could use our

software to help them do what they were doing," said Mike Ficklin, who deals with the PBF organizations for Flight Explorer. "We just created a program to help them out. Flight Explorer works with 29 different groups," Ficklin said, "allowing all those groups to track their pilots' flights across the country."

In the days following that national tragedy, AFG was flying missions all over the south for blood banks, sending blood samples to testing centers. These samples are usually carried on commercial airlines, but at the time all commercial flights were stopped. Several of AFG's flights were bound for Jackson, Mississippi to meet a ferry plane bound for Texas. When that happened, Flight Explorer's services were



a difference



invaluable, as it allowed the group to locate all its planes and redirect them to another airfield.

Flight Explorer is also invaluable to groups like Angel Flight under normal non disaster circumstances. It helps groups determine weather conditions and how they might affect their flights and helps them line up ground transportation for patients once flights have landed. It also makes planning easier for often under-staffed organizations helping them keep track of multiple pilots with little hassle allowing them to best use the resources they do have.

"There are lots of benefits for the mission coordinators," Ficklin said. "Hand offs between organizations

become much easier, I think and it gives them a chance to see all their missions at once. That's a big deal if they are doing 10 or 15 in a day."

Ficklin said it's actually very easy for Flight Explorer to provide their support. While they waive the cost of the service, their biggest donation, he says all they really have to do is provide a little training and some bandwidth so the groups may use the service.

"It just takes a little effort on our part," Ficklin said. "It's a drop in the bucket compared to the efforts these groups make on a daily basis." ■

For more about Flight Explorer, visit their website www.flightexplorer.com

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