INFLIGHT STREAMING VIDEO – FAQ

How do airtime service providers charge for the data business aircraft use?
Airtime service providers use a model similar to cellular service providers. They charge by the amount of data consumed, either on an hourly basis or using a data subscription package. Airtime service providers offer a range of packages so you can choose the package that best fits your inflight usage patterns.

How do you choose “right” data package?
Choosing an airtime service plan is a lot like choosing a cellphone data plan. It’s important to assess your anticipated data needs and choose from a wide range of available options.

Does video streaming consume a lot of data?
Whether it’s on the ground or at 40,000 feet, streaming video uses more data than almost any other application. Streaming high-definition video consumes about 7 GB per hour, enough to put a strain on most airtime service plans and operators’ budgets. Fortunately, there are multiple ways to limit data consumption without significant impact on the streaming-video experience.

How much does inflight video streaming cost?
That depends on a variety of factors including the airtime service package, the amount of data consumed and whether you take steps to manage and control data use. Many operators have been led to believe that streaming video comes with a $30,000 monthly price tag. But the right combination of satellite communications hardware, satcom network, airtime service and data management services can result in savings of as much as 60 percent.

How can I manage data costs while still providing inflight video streaming to passengers?
Honeywell’s GoDirect portfolio of software, services and applications – used in concert with the JetWave satcom system, Inmarsat’s JetConneX network and the JX2 airtime service plan – gives you the tools you need to provide fast, reliable video streaming at an affordable cost.

In the case of a business aircraft on which passengers watch 300 hours of streaming video per year (two streams of 150 hours each), monthly cost would be $8,500 with the JX2 data plan, which provides 35 GB of data per month.

With GoDirect services, video bandwidth is limited to 1 MBS, which is enough to stream two 480p videos with minimal buffering. A total of 21.8 GB of data is consumed in a month. This lets you stay on plan, provides a seamless video viewing experience, and ensures that bandwidth is available for other uses, like email, intranet and telephone.

Will my customers will notice if I choose a less expensive data plan?
Most passengers watch video on a cabin television, laptop or tablet. While viewing on these devices, passengers don’t see true high-definition pictures, regardless of the available data speed. Reducing the bandwidth will not reduce picture quality to an extent that passengers are likely to notice and will substantially reduce service costs.

What are the advantages of a satellite-based system over Direct TV?
Today’s most popular inflight television service works fine when you’re flying over the continental United States. Coverage is not available on transoceanic flights or when flying over another country. With satellite-based communications networks, you’re able to access all the popular streaming apps available today, anywhere you fly.