The OPL at the University of Iowa conducts flight test research in operational relevant environments.

- 100% funded by sponsored research
- Self-contained facility with flight ops, shops, offices, labs.
- One-stop flight test R&D organization with “can-do” attitude
- Directed by Tom Schnell, Associate Professor in Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, Commercial Pilot, Flight Instructor
- OPL has around 15 members including graduate and undergraduate students, full time research engineers, emeritus faculty, research pilots, and crew chief.

The OPL is situated in an 8500 square-foot vehicle integration hangar, a 2200 square-foot electronics laboratory and software development laboratory space, and a 4500 square-foot maintenance hangar.

OPL is a self-contained full-service flight simulation and flight test research organization complete with the necessary organizational and procedural processes to maintain and modify research simulators and airframes for use in OPL's human-in-the-loop tests. Flight test operations are governed by the flight operations manual which has been approved at the leadership levels of the University of Iowa, State of Iowa.
Special Equipment

- Binocular cueing helmet (JSF)
- Eye trackers (head worn and remote optics)
- Physiological monitoring equipment (EEG, ECG, SpO2, etc.)
- Hyper-stereo EO/IR pods
- SOA CAAS system in Helicopter
- LVC Avionics in AV-L29 jets
- Range instrumentation pod points
- NGTS SAF, all aircraft and simulators are federated

Unique Capabilities

- Aircraft-In-Loop simulation
- OPL has thousands of acres in UAS COAs

Turnkey Solutions

- From specification to flight, OPL can handle all flight test assignments in house.
- Staffing includes PhD engineers, test pilots, crew chiefs and mechanics, electronics and software engineers, ground support crews.
- OPL is a part of the State of Iowa system and as public use entity can easily deploy to military bases.

Let OPL serve your flight test needs

Contact or visit us anytime

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