

news letter

**Information
from Entertainment Technology**

Only Flying is More Fun!

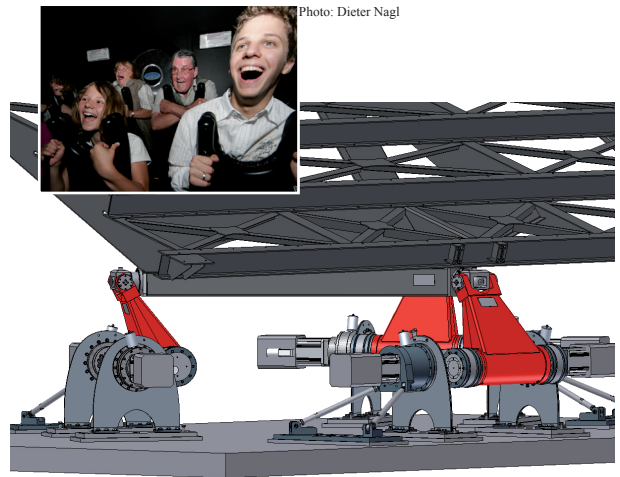
Breathless action: in the spring of 2008 you could have experienced a world premiere at the Vienna Prater, Rexroth not only gave the right thrill with its new flight simulator, the Flyboard 5000, but also the necessary level of safety.

“Unbelievable”, “Breathtaking”, “A sheer speed thrill”. The first passengers climb out of the mini airplane and let rip with their enthusiasm. In the last few minutes they were not only witnesses, but also participants in a perfect illusion. This time they were not passive spectators sitting down; they were actively involved in the action. The new flight simulator, which will attempt to take over the entertainment and amusement parks from Spring 2008, is called the Flyboard 5000.

The new thing is: there are no seats. On the platform of the Flyboard, a motion system developed by Rexroth, everyone stands. “Every movement is therefore felt directly. You get as close as possible to the illusion of flying”, explains Jack Bergmans.

Immense challenge

More than anything the concept with standing passengers has brought Rexroth to the forefront of technology: There is no comparative concept from the competition. “The drive and control technology was an immense challenge”, explains Jack. “Through exact movements and steering we can create an extreme buzz, the movements should convey the effect of risk and danger: at the same time we must be able to guarantee absolute safety, for standing - therefore physically moving - passengers.” This was made possible through the three dimensional motion system, which was originally used in simulators in the aviation industry. The flight simulator developer Explore 5D from Vienna commissioned Rexroth to supply the entire electric drive and control technology, in which



36 people can go travelling. Comparable predecessors could only take up to 16 passengers. “Of course the large group of people makes the experience even more impressive”.

Technological seduction

In order to make the experience as realistic as possible, the movements must be meticulously in time with the film that is shown on the screen. Rexroth developed a control system that allows just this. Together with the rich sound and the digital special effects on screen, the Flyboard 5000 offers the passenger an experience that is unique in the world. As well as the technological development, Rexroth undertook the assembly and safety precautions of the ride on site. Even the self-dagnostic system is from Rexroth. With this, the system runs almost maintenance free and the customer only needs to build in minimal service costs. “The manufacturer has in actually developed a system, which masters the fine art of technological seduction perfectly”, says Bergmans. The attraction is installed at the Vienna Prater in April 2008, and there are already follow-up orders for similar applications in Europe and the Middle-East.