
Can AI help pilots in future cockpit scenarios? A tale of two simulations.

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Flight briefing

- 3-year EU HAIKU Research Project looking at Human-AI Teaming in Aviation sector
- Two studies of cockpit AI-based pilot support
 - 'Startle Response' support following a lightning strike
 - Re-routing support during major weather pattern event
- 'Real' AI prototypes trained with pilot expertise
- Airline pilots as test subjects in fixed simulators
- Insights on accuracy, alignment, usability and desirability
- *What pilots said...*





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<https://haikuproject.eu/>

Our goal

is to pave the way for **human-centric-AI** via the exploration of interactive **AI prototypes** in a **range of aviation contexts**

HAIKU's focus is on **Intelligent Assistants** for the 2030+ timeframe.

Our challenge

is to deliver **truly human-centric Digital Assistants**, capable to 'fit' the way humans work.

HAIKU aims to develop a **Human Factors Assurance toolset** that design teams of AI-based systems can work with.

Who we are

Horizon Europe R&I Program (September 2022 - August 2025)

15 Partners from 10 different countries, bringing together **Human Factors expertise**, domain's key **end-users** and **technology** suppliers of excellence



END-USERS



London Luton Airport

ADVISOR



EASA

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Fasten your seat-belts (Reality check)

- Generally no AI in cockpits today.
- No LLMs allowed in cockpit (unless on your phone/EFB) because they hallucinate.
- No consideration of SPO until 2030+
- A great deal of the 'hype' about AI is exactly that.
- AI (ML) can perhaps help the flight crew. We (HAIKU) look at ways AI can augment human performance.

A Tale of two AI Cockpit Studies

Startle Response
Support (single pilot)

Re-routing Support
(two-pilot flight
crew)



Can AI assist pilots
experiencing 'startle
response'?

Sudden, unexpected
event.

Psychophysiological
response, cognitive
performance impaired
for 20s



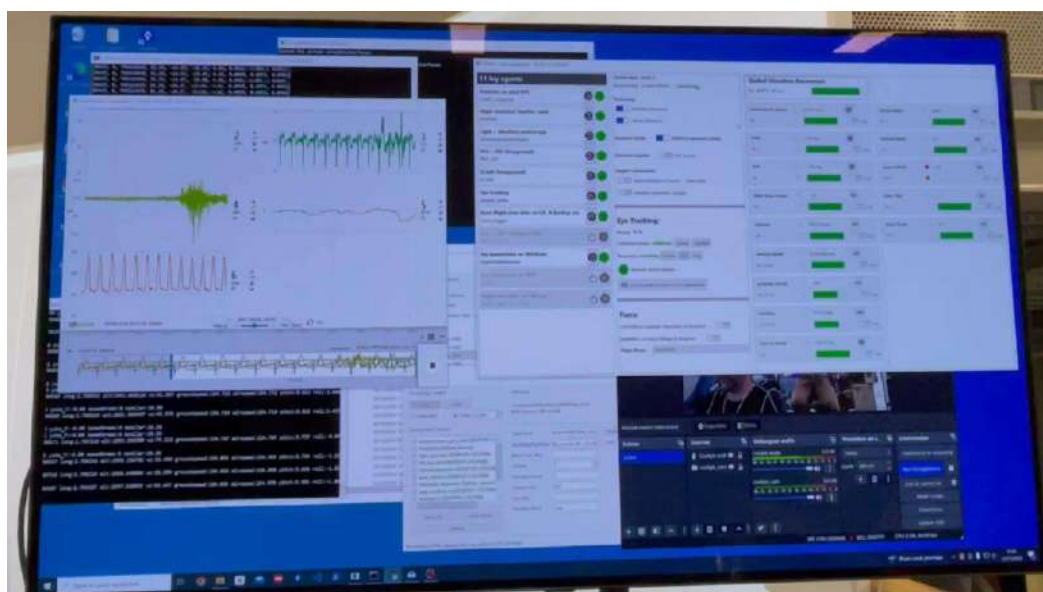
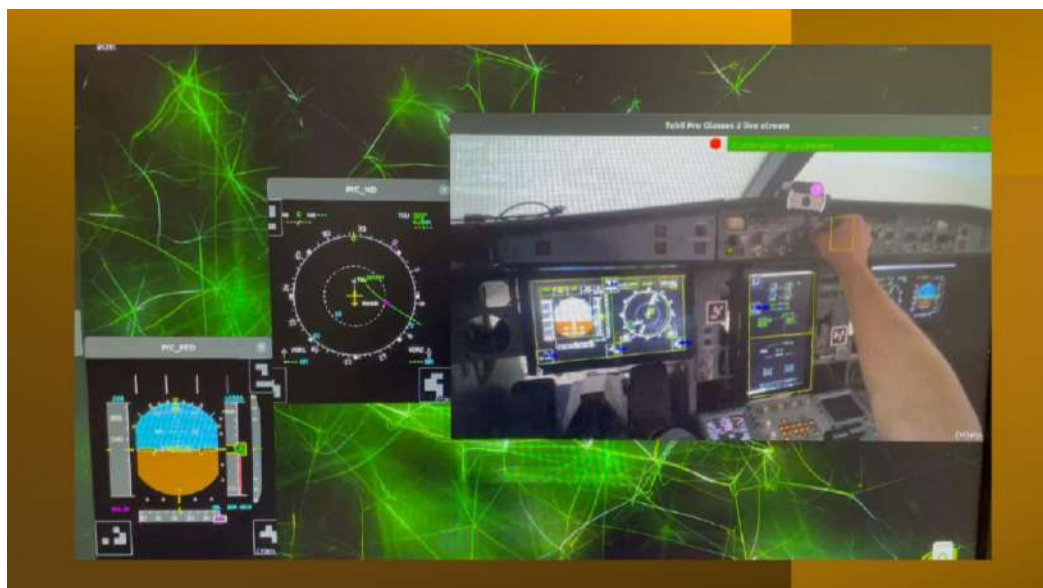
HAIKU UC1 (led by ENAC, AI by DFKI)
 Single Pilot in Startle Response Emergencies
 AI-based Startle Detection (physiological
 measures) Recovery, and Directed Situation
 Awareness (eye tracking, highlighting key display
 elements)



FOCUS: Flight Operational Companion for Unexpected Situations

Global Situation Awareness			
SA: 0.744	<div></div>		
Indicated Air Speed	193.25 knot	High	
SA: 0.994	<div></div>		Log
Pitch	-3.42 deg	High	
SA: 1	<div></div>		Log
Roll	-6.62 deg	High	
SA: 1	<div></div>		Log
Glide slope deviat.	0.01	High	
SA: 1	<div></div>		Log
Altitude	2427.48 feet	High	
SA: 1	<div></div>		Log
Vertical Speed	-1597.83 feet/min	High	
SA: 1	<div></div>		Log
Localizer deviat.	0.05	High	
SA: 0.054	<div></div>		Log







Pilots appreciated the support, especially if they had startle.

Breathing support was appreciated especially in first validation.

Directed SA helpful with aural support plus visual, may need refinement.

Questions arose of 'pacing' and perhaps tailoring it to individual pilots' or airlines' 'playbooks'.

Ideally pilots want a speech interface, the best co-pilot/FO sitting next to them, talking in their language. This would require domain-limited LLM.



HAIKU UC2: Assist route replanning after a meteorological degradation:
Identifies 3 viable airports
Flight crew choose one.



• HAT Architecture:

- Communication
- Collaborative Situation Awareness
- Negotiation
- Work-Sharing and Task Delegation
- Integrated HMI

AI (COMBI)

- Trained using expert-labelled data
- Pilot decision criteria analysed and prioritized (KPIs)
- AI model developed & tested with pilots



- Accelerates alternatives generation
- Accelerates situation assessment
- Reduces workload: a 12-15 minute task now takes 2-3 minutes

An underwater scene inside a cave, with a diver visible in the distance. The water is dark blue, and the cave walls are rocky and illuminated by light filtering through the water.

Airport / Runway suitability

- Fuel and range
- Airport suitable for aircraft type
- Number of passengers on board
- Weather conditions at airport
- Runway length, contamination AND a/c weight AND wind/weather/visibility factors...

Airline / Flight Crew Preference


- Maintenance / GH contract with airport?
- Connections / Onward flights?
- How many passengers will have to stay in hotel?
- Relief flight crew?
- Known to flight crew?

How deep does the AI need to go?

A 3D rendering of a complex maze made of white, blocky arrows pointing in various directions, set against a dark blue background.

Do all Pilots Want the Choice?

“Just give me the best/preferred solution.”

A smartphone is shown at an angle, displaying a world map. Overlaid on the map are various small, semi-transparent icons representing different aspects of aviation and human factors, such as a cockpit, a person, a gear, a dollar sign, and a target.

Usability: Is the AI...

Fit for purpose

Fit for cockpit

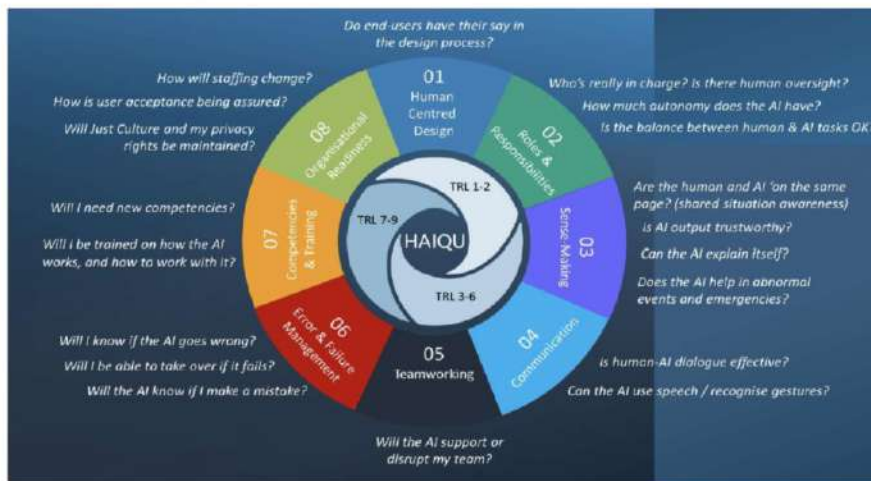
Fit for flight crew...

Human Factors Requirements

Get the Human Factors right in your AI-based system

Move closer to compliance with aviation Human Factors regulations

Start now



> SENSE-MAKING

SHARED SITUATION AWARENESS

Q1

Is all the required information presented to the user in an uncluttered way?

Q2

Is the interaction medium appropriate for the task, e.g. keyboard, touchscreen, voice, and even gesture recognition?

Q3

Is at least one alternative / back-up interaction medium available, in case of technical problems?

Q7

Is the AI's situation representation made accessible to the end user, via visualisation and/or dialogue?

Q8

Does the AI-human interface reinforce the end-user's situation awareness, so that human and AI can remain 'on the same page'?

Yes

No

N/A

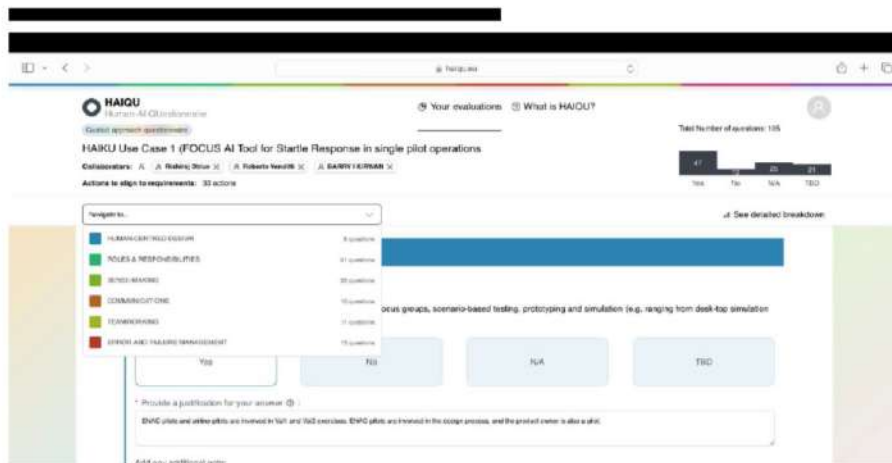
TBD

D

by pilots

* Provide a justification for your answer @ :

Pilots feel it helped their SA, and speed of gaining a situational picture. The scenario did cause startle-type reactions in Val 1 in two pilots.



Exporting design issues to be resolved

Actions identified to satisfy requirements

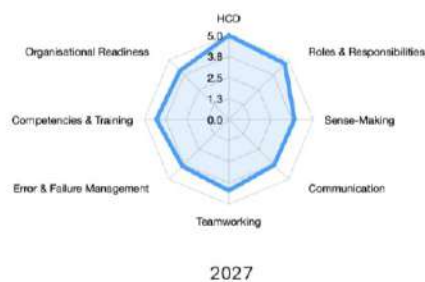
HAIKU Use Case 1 (FOCUS AI Tool for Startle Response in single pilot operations / Actions identified

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

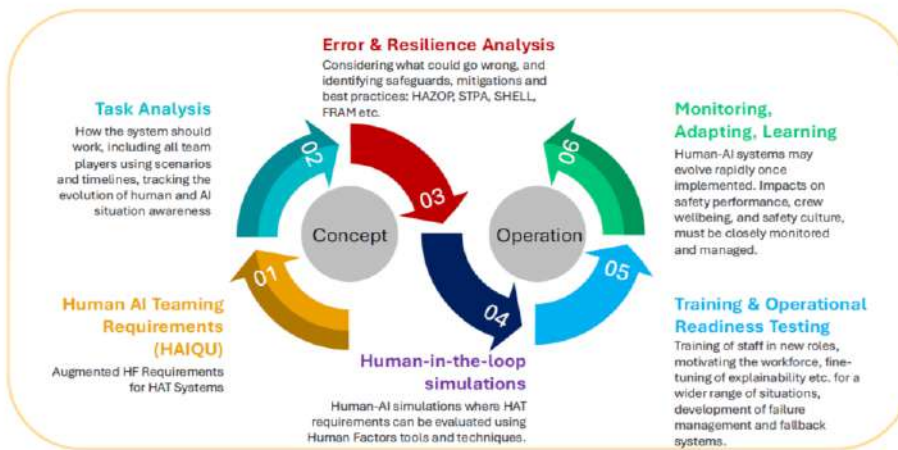
BALANCE OF HUMAN & AI TASKS

- Q5** Is it ensured that the human will be able to take on a new task with enough time to think and react accordingly?
→ Evaluate the pacing of the directed guidance, to see if it is too quick/slow for pilots, or judged adequate.
- Q6** Is the human kept aware of who is doing what, and the need for, or imminence of switching?
→ Need equivalent icon to tell pilot that smart agent (FOCUS) is stopped.
- Q9** Is the 'handoff' of tasks between AI and end user (i.e. when the AI submits its response or finishes its task) clear?
→ Test the adequacy of the 'AI no longer operating' icon in Val 2.

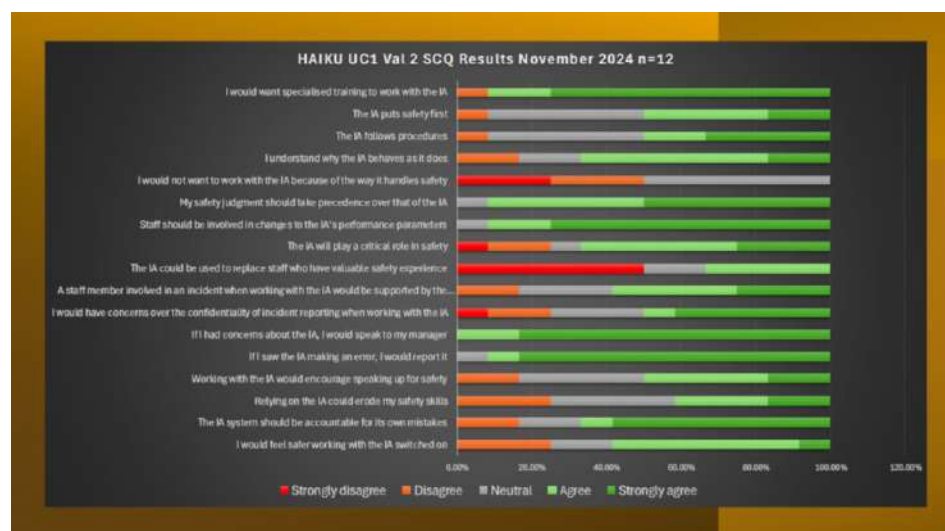
Tracking HF Requirements Progress



Human-AI Teaming Human Factors Assurance Process



Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
CC1 I would feel safer working with the AI switched on.					
CC2 The AI system should be accountable for its own mistakes.					
CC3 Relying on the AI could erode my safety skills.					
JC1 Working with the AI would encourage speaking up for safety.					
JC2 If I saw the AI making an error, I would report it.					
JC3 If I had concerns about the AI, I would speak to my manager.					



Strongly Desirable

If I had concerns about the IA, I would speak to my manager

If I saw the IA making an error, I would report it

Staff should be involved in changes to the IA's parameters

My safety judgement should take preference over that of the IA

I would want specialised training to work with the IA

Intermediate

The IA puts safety first

The IA follows procedures

I understand why the IA behaves as it does

A staff member involved in an incident when working with the IA would be supported by management.

Working with the IA would encourage speaking up for safety.

The IA system should be accountable for its mistakes

I would feel safer working with the IA switched on.

Undesirable

The IA could be used to replace staff who have valuable safety experience

I would not want to work with the IA because of the way it handles safety

I would have concerns over the confidentiality of incident reporting when working with the IA

The IA will play a critical role in safety

Relying on the IA could erode my safety skills

Comments from Interviews



High-Level

- AI might have a positive impact on Safety Culture, but only if properly regulated.
- Pilots' openness to adopting AI onboard may depend on the aircraft type they fly.

What Pilots would say to airline companies

- Don't ask me if I would feel safer with AI - It is impossible to say right now.
- Involve me in its design and introduce it gradually.
- Start with AI handling the tasks I find boring.
- Start training us on AI literacy today.
- The introduction of AI could actually help increase reporting...

What Pilots would ask AI Experts

As *Pilot Monitoring* I wonder how to perform safely when AI becomes another "crew member" to oversee and cross-check actions with?

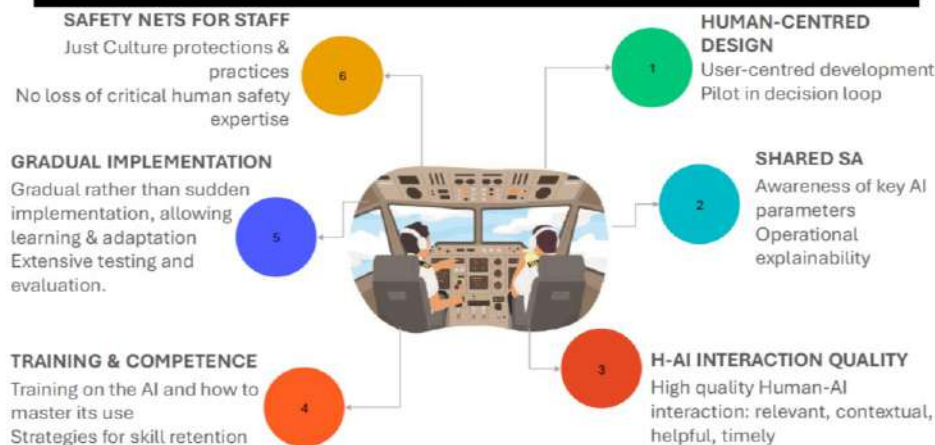


What Pilots would say to Manufacturers

What matters is that:

- The AI gives me a true sense of control
- It does not override my intentions and decisions
- It can be switched off whenever I deem it necessary

Design & Development Safeguards



Conclusions

21 Pilots experienced AI assistance in realistic HAIKU simulations.

They are generally not averse to AI and think it could be beneficial.

But it needs to be robust, fit their way of working, and be introduced gradually.



Questions?



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