

brisbanetimes

Ads by Google

[10 Rules to Shrink Belly](#)

Lose 9 lbs every 11 Days with these 10 Idiot Proof Rules of Fat Loss.  
[www.FatLoss4Idiots.com](http://www.FatLoss4Idiots.com)

[Run Car on Water Expose](#)

Convert Your Car To Run On Water Double Your Mileage!  
[www.RunYourCarWithWater.Com](http://www.RunYourCarWithWater.Com)

[Home](#) [National](#) [World](#) [Sport](#) [Life & Style](#) [Entertainment](#) [What's On](#) [Business](#) [Tech](#) [Travel](#) [Opinion](#) [C](#)

Captain Laurent Privet (left), vice-president of training for Swiss Aviation Training, and Captain Brian Kearney of Virgin Blue.

## Flight simulator's Virgin mission

Marissa Calligeros | May 8, 2008 - 1:49PM

From inside the bubble-like capsule of Virgin Blue's newest toy, it is clear that Brisbane now houses world-class aviation technology.

Capable of simulating any scenario in any location, the capsule of the Embraer aircraft simulator is like something out of a George Lucas Star Wars film, yet the \$10 million machine unveiled at Virgin Blue's training base today has brought state-of-the-art, Swiss aviation technology to Brisbane.

"It is indeed a new chapter in Virgin Blue history," pilot Captain Brian Kearney said.

The new simulator, dubbed E-Jet, will use 70 per cent less power than older hydraulic motion simulators designed for Boeing 737 aircraft.

Previously, pilots have had to travel to Zurich to undertake training for the new Embraer E190 jet

"Now pilots can come here and learn and go home to their families of an evening rather than having to travel overseas," Cpt Kearney said.

One of the first 12 pilots to train in the E-Jet simulator, Josh Castleden, described the simulator as "pretty flash".

"On other simulators you can only see big blocks of green or just a solid block of blue water, but here everything is more accurate. You can see the detail of the roof of the Convention Centre for instance," Mr Castleden said.

Through photographic realism technology - similar to that used by Google Earth - images are reflected onto large mirrors positioned in place of the cockpit windows.

"It's like wearing 3D goggles," Mr Castleden said.

"What's even more fantastic is the sounds...you can hear the engine firing up and the auto full throttle kicking in," he said.

The E-Jet simulator will be used for Virgin Blue pilot and engineering training 21 hours each day, seven days a week, in support of the recent introduction of the Brazilian manufactured Embraer style aircraft to Virgin Blue's Queensland fleet.