

NORTHWEST MOUNTAIN INTERCOM

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World's First GPS Commercial Approach

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Just before Christmas, Aspen's Sardy Field became the site of the world's first Global Positioning Satellite instrument commercial approach.



The satellite system, known as GPS, provides very accurate position readings. It was developed for military use by the Defense Department and is becoming ever more widely a part of civilian life and increasingly a part of aviation.

The flight was Continental Express 2035 (known to air traffic



controllers as "Jetlink") on a passenger carrying revenue trip from Denver which landed at Aspen December 17 at 1:15 p.m.. Equipment was an ATR 72.

The first two pictures show the historic moment just before touchdown. One from the tower looks toward the northeast. Colorado highway 82 from Glenwood Springs is visible running diagonally across the picture just past the end of the runway. In the ground-level shot, the Aspen ATCT is visible just under the plane's right wing, along with some of the rugged local scenery. In the third picture, Aspen airport manager Scott Smith



watches as Aspen ATCT manager Dick Weinberg gives a congratulatory handshake to Bill Jones, captain of Flight 2035.