

Flexi-Coil has introduced new productivity and safety features on its air carts in time for 2012 seeding.

The brand new FlexControl IV+ onboard computer allows growers to monitor and control Flexi-Coil air seeders, compatible tractors and combines, guidance systems and other ISO11783-compliant implements, right from the vehicle's cab.

In addition, Flexi-Coil is the first agricultural machinery supplier to provide upgraded ladders and railings to meet AS1657 (Australian Standard). These will be standard on Flexi-Coil 40 and 50 series air carts.

"When you're seeding, you only have one chance to do it right. Limited seeding windows and rising input costs mean growers have to be spot on with depth and placement of seeds - that's why so many growers have embraced precision seeding technology and techniques," said Flexi-Coil Australia General Manager Steve Mulder.

"The new FlexControl IV+ system makes it easier than ever to keep a close eye on inputs like fertiliser and seeds, and it allows you to make informed decisions that will help make every seed count."

The FlexControl IV+ is a 10.4-inch, colour display that replaces the previous FlexControl III display. The touch screen allows you to control the vehicle or implement.

It displays essential information such as ground speed, fuel usage (on compatible tractors) and seeding rates and allows you to make adjustments on the go to maximise efficiency. "Although the FlexControl IV+'s physical size is smaller than the previous display, the screen size remains the same. More importantly, the FlexControl IV+ takes the display from being a simple monitor and control tool to being an onboard computer," said Steve.

"It runs a Linux-based operating system and the software can be upgraded or changed, maximising its useful life."

The display's overall layout has not changed, so users familiar with the previous model will experience a virtually seamless transition to the FlexControl IV+.

Some of the FlexControl IV+'s new features include: USB connection ports so users can store information on a USB device; video connection points to allow video input; and an Ethernet port for future web-browsing capability. Other ports and connectors on the new display remain unchanged from the previous version.

The FlexControl IV+ can be used to control various Flexi-Coil air cart functions such as fan speed monitoring, air velocity tracking, tank level tracking, on the go seeding rate adjustment, diagnostics, ground speed, acre/hectare counting and estimated time remaining for tank level.

With additional software the FCIV+ can provide coverage area mapping, summary data, single section Automatic Overlap Control, As-Applied mapping of up to seven different products, prescription controlled product application and container level tracking.

"The point of an onboard computer like this is to put the information and functions you need at your fingertips, taking the guesswork out of seeding and helping even inexperienced operators be more productive," said Steve.

he FlexControl IV+ is standard on all Flexi-Coil air carts manufactured from October 2011. Customers who have a Case IH AFS Pro 700 or New Holland Intelli-view IV display may choose to delete the FlexControl IV+ from their order.