

P E R F O R M A N C E

From great companies come great ideas.

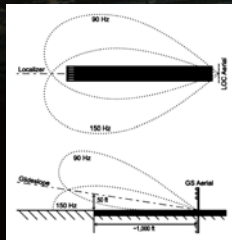


RICONDO
& ASSOCIATES

An Aviation Consultancy

INSTRUMENT LANDING SYSTEMS — TENTH IN A SERIES OF MILESTONE ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE AVIATION INDUSTRY

On January 26, 1938, a Pennsylvania-Central Airlines Boeing 247D aircraft flew from Washington, D.C., to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and landed in a blinding snow-storm, making it the first scheduled commercial aircraft to land using only an Instrument Landing System (ILS). The ILS consists of three components—a localizer, which shows if the plane is left, right, or aligned with the approach course; a glide slope, which shows if the plane is above, below, or along the proper descent angle; and marker beacons that show the plane's distance from the runway. These three components are essentially unchanged to this day.



The ILS, along with radio communications, weather information systems, jet engines, and airport lighting, have together become a cornerstone of commercial flight, supporting and helping create the commercial aviation industry we have today.

A Boeing 247D is on display in the National Air and Space Museum.

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