

2009 Paper 3 Question 8

Software Engineering

After 9/11, some people suggested that airliners should be fitted with autopilot remote control systems that would enable them to be taken over by air traffic control in the event of hijacking. The idea was revived in 2005 after a Boeing 737 from Larnaca crashed near Athens; apparently a failure of cabin pressure rendered the pilots unconscious. In 2006, Boeing obtained a patent for an “uninterruptible autopilot system”.

You have been hired by the Civil Aviation Authority to develop a requirements specification and airworthiness certification programme for such products. Describe how you would organise and run this project.

[20 marks]