

TIX Infrared-Augmented Tow Target



Features

- IR Output: 400 watts/steradian in 1.8-3 micron band
250 watts/steradian in 3-5 micron band
- Available in tow configurations for military and commercial aircraft, sub-scale and full scale drone aircraft, and in both one-way and two-way (recoverable) versions
- Operationally proven, cost effective target used extensively by U.S. military and forces worldwide for more than 20 years
- Radar Cross Section: 0.5 - 2.0 sq. meters
- Propane fuel provides 30-45 minutes of continuous IR radiation
- Burner system operates up to 20,000 feet and 0.9 mach
- Towbody made of fiberglass with polyester resin for survivability

Description

The TIX Infrared Augmented Tow Target is designed for use with weapon systems or trackers that employ heat seeking guidance technology. An infrared emitting propane burner which operates at approximately 1135C, provides the infrared output.

The TIX infrared augmented tow target features a constant infrared emitter with an IR signature that simulates a jet aircraft engine operating at military power.

IR augmentation is provided by a propane-fired burner located in the aft end of the target. The propane fuel is contained in a stainless steel tank in the forward end of the target body.

The fuel/air mixture is ignited by a spark plug which is powered by an ignition module located in the target launcher. The TIX electrical system receives power through an electrical disconnect in the launcher, which assures the target burner is operating properly before target launch can occur.

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The TIX is designed to be launched and flown from either the Meggitt LTC series of launchers, drone aircraft launchers or from two-way reeling machines.

In the one-way configuration, pictured in the drawing below, the TIX is fitted with an internally mounted tow reel. This tow reel is mechanically controlled by the Reel Brake Assembly which controls towline payout when the target is launched. The towline is released at the launcher when the mission is completed or the target is destroyed.

Weight of the target varies with configuration. The nominal weight of the fueled target without scoring or towline is 29 kilograms.

Specialized support equipment required for test and operation of the TIX target includes a test set which contains hoses and pressure gauges for fueling, and a fuel service cart.

In summary, the TIX infrared Tow Target is the target of choice when a continuous long-duration IR source is needed. The TIX is a proven performer which has been in continuous use by the U.S. and foreign militaries from the 1970's to present.

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