



At its simplest, an ADHRS or AHRS is little more than some microelectronic accelerometers coupled to a magnetometer and the aircraft's pitot-static system. That device's output, in turn, is processed and sent to a display unit, which presents what your EFIS tells it to. Thanks, in part, to the worldwide demand for full-featured phones and tablets, the ability to incorporate reliable microelectronic accelerometers into just about any piece of hardware has become relatively inexpensive. Of course, reliability is in the eye of the beholder: Millions of hours between failures doesn't mean much if it's your turn.

But it also means a tablet or phone can serve as a backup attitude and directional device, with the appropriate software. Of course, the device has to be powered up, with the software initialized, configured and zeroed, and it all has to be mounted in a location where it easily can be viewed when the time comes. If for no other reason than using your only portable device as a backup means it will be dedicated to that purpose alone, using a personal electronic device as a solution to backing up your glass panel may not be the best choice.

