Pushback Express

VOICE CONTROL MANUAL

Introduction:

As of **Version 1.2**, Pushback Express now includes a **VOICE CONTROL** interface option. This allows you to communicate with the ground crew using your own voice rather than buttons. Voice Control is only supported in the new Microsoft Flight Simulator version.

The system allows you to speak in English (**US**, **UK**, **AU**) or you can speak in native **German**, **French** or **Spanish**. If using voice control with the **Italian-Italian** or **Dutch-Dutch** option for the ground crew, you must speak in English because the Windows speech recognizer does not support Italian or Dutch.

STEP 1 – ENABLE VOICE CONTROL:

1. Open the Settings Panel in Pushback Express and select **VOICE CONTROL** from the Interface Method drop-down box.

STEP 2 – SELECT YOUR SPEECH RECOGITION LANGUAGE

Your **Windows Speech Recognizer** setting must **MATCH** the Pilot Setting in the Language Options drop-down menu.

For example, if you are British and your Windows speech recognizer is set to **ENGLISH – UK**, you must select the UK pilot option on the Pushback Express Settings page:

THIS IS THE WINDOWS PANEL THAT MATTERS FOR THE SPEECH RECOGNITION LANGUAGE. NO OTHER PANEL COUNTS! THIS IS THE ONE TO GO BY!

Note: If you are planning to speak in native German, French or Spanish, you can select **either** of the two language pilot options for your language (English or German). **It makes no difference in Voice Control**. What matters is that if you want to speak in native German, you need to select German.

Note: If your speech recognizer, for example, is set to **ENGLISH-UK**, and, with Voice Control enabled, you try to select **GERMANY** for the pilot after closing the Settings Panel, you will be presented with an error message. This is because the selected Pilot Language must match your speech recognizer setting as well:

However, if your voices do match up, and you still get the error, it means you have a problem on your computer. In most cases it is because you are using 3rd party audio drivers that do not work properly with the Speech Recognition API for 3rd party developers. You should uninstall those drivers and let Windows install generic Windows drivers.

Please click here for additional Voice Control setup and troubleshooting help!!!!

STEP 3 – HOW TO ACCESS THE WINDOWS SPEECH PROPERTIES – SPEECH RECOGNITION PANEL AND TRAIN YOUR VOICE

1. Go to Window's Control Panel
2. In the search bar, type: SPEECH RECOGNITION
3. Select: CHANGE TEXT TO SPEECH SETTINGS
4. Select: SPEECH RECOGNITION

Note: Microsoft has a habit of changing this around from time-to-time, so you may need to root around Windows if you cannot find it.

Once you have located that page, please select **TRAIN PROFILE**. It is important that you fully train your voice.

Important: Do **NOT** select "**Run Speech Recognition at Startup**" or your voice commands may start controlling Windows menus, etc.

STEP 4 – USING THE OPTIONAL "PUSH TO TALK" KEY

A **Push-to-Talk key** is available; **<u>it is enabled by default</u>**.

The default PTT key is the **C** key on your keyboard.

Hold down the PTT key while talking.

Important PTT Notes:

1. The PTT hotkey is defined on the Settings panel. Due to a current issue with Simconnect, you cannot directly assign a joystick button. However, what you can do is use a program like FSUIPC to connect joystick buttons to keyboard events.

2. As of **Version 2.1**, you can now also trigger the PTT key with your mouse. Press and hold this new button on the Main panel to trigger PTT.

3. If using a hotkey, push to talk functionality is ONLY AVAILABLE when the *Flight Simulator window itself* in FOCUS. If the Pushback Express Window is in focus, PTT will not work!

   Note: If you are using the new PTT mouse button shown above, then this does not apply.

   MSFS Window in Focus: Hotkeys available.

   MSFS Window NOT in Focus: Hotkeys NOT available.

4. When PTT is operating, the PTT Icon will illuminate red.

PUSHBACK EXPRESS TUTORIAL: SAMPLE PUSHBACK USING RUDDER CONTROL

1. Setup Voice Control as previously described.
2. Ensure the Flight Simulator window is **in focus** not the Pushback Express Panel unless you are using the new Mouse PTT button located on the Main panel.
3. When ready to speak, hold down the Push-to-Talk key, which by default is the "**C**" key or use the new Mouse PTT button. You should see a flashing graphic appear -"**TX**"- indicating at you are transmitting. If you do not see TX and you are using a hotkey, it means the Flight Simulator window is not in focus. Click your mouse inside the MSFS window to put it in focus.
4. Speak: "FLIGHT DECK TO GROUND". The ramper will reply (assuming your speech is detected), "**GO AHEAD FLIGHT DECK**".
5. New for Version 2.1: Pushback Express now makes it easy for you! Via our new **VOICE COMMAND HELPER** function, the list of what you should say is now displayed directly on the Main panel so you no longer need to memorize phrases! The available speech commands are available in English, French, German and Spanish based on your pilot language selection.

   Press the **ASSIST** button on the Main Panel to open the **VOICE COMMAND HELPER**.

6. After speaking "FLIGHT DECK TO GROUND", a new list of available commands will appear.

7. Speak: "WE WILL BE READY SHORTLY" or one of the other available phrases listed.
8. New for V2.1: This phrase will trigger the stock pushback tug to connect to the aircraft and **hold position**. Unlike in previous versions of Pushback Express, the tug will not automatically start

pushing back.

The tug will now hold position at your aircraft until you tell him you are ready for pushback and engine start. This is more realistic than previous versions of Pushback Express.

9. When ready to start the pushback, speak: "WE ARE READY FOR PUSHBACK AND ENGINE START". The ground crew will tell you to release the brakes.

10. Speak: "BRAKES RELEASED". Ensure your **parking brake is released before speaking or your speech phrase will not trigger the next step**. If using an aircraft that uses chocks, make sure your chocks are out, too! The ground crew will then honk his horn to alert anyone around and commence the pushback. A new set of optional phrases will appear:

11. The phrases listed above are optional.

12. When ready to stop, press the red **STOP** button on the Main panel or speak “STOP PUSHBACK”. I personally prefer manually pressing the stop button since in real-life the pilots generally would never speak “STOP PUSHBACK” unless there was a problem.

13. After the tug has stopped, the ground crew will tell you that the pushback is complete and that you should set your parking brake.

14. Set the parking brake, then speak: “BRAKES SET” or one of the other listed phrases. The ground crew will then say that the tug is disconnected.
15. To end pushback sequence, speak one of the following commands:

16. The ground crew will wish you a safe flight and that ends the pushback.
17. Pushback Express will auto shutdown at the end of pushback.

-MANUAL END-