

SESAR DEPLOYMENT MANAGER BRIEFING

SESAR Deployment Manager (SDM), is an industrial partnership spearheading the efforts to modernise and digitalise European Air Traffic Management (ATM) in Europe. It coordinates Aviation stakeholders in their journey to achieve the goals of the **European ATM Master Plan** and realise the vision of the **Single European Sky**. The joint efforts of the ATM community are essential to **futureproof the European Aviation industry**, secure its **growth and global competitiveness**, enhance the **defence and security capabilities of our skies** whilst at the same time contributing to its **90% emission reduction targets** in 2040.



100+

European
aviation partners



€3 bn

€1.6 bn invested by the aviation
industry, supported by
€1.4 bn of co-funding by
the European Commission



356

projects
(319 complete)

HOW?

SDM synchronises the effort to deploy innovative SESAR (Single European Sky ATM Research) technologies, systems and infrastructure upgrades which are mandated by EU Regulations known as Common Projects (CPs)¹. The first of these CPs is Common Project 1, concluding on 31 December 2027. **CP1 ensures that Air Traffic Management in Europe operates safely and efficiently, minimises delays and costs**, bringing critical operational and financial benefits for the aviation industry, with an impact that outweighs the €3 billion investment by a factor of six — an exceptional return by any measure. SESAR also represents the technological backbone to ensure the system can cope with its expected exceptional growth: **European air traffic is projected to increase by 44% by 2050**, with the potential of bringing significant economic benefits to the Union.

However, without technological improvements and the necessary funding, Europe's ATM system will not be able to cope with rising numbers of EU passengers and demand for freight mobility. **SESAR and synchronised ATM modernisation are instrumental tools to counter the complexity, delays and congestion generated by the rising volume of traffic and external constraints driven by the current geopolitical situation.**

To ensure Europe can respond effectively to this rise in demand and continue to be at the forefront of the global Aviation industry, shaping its future and driving innovation, **continuous support and funding to ATM modernisation in the next European Multi-Annual Financial Framework Programme is needed.**

AIR TRAFFIC DEMAND IS EXPERIENCING EXCEPTIONAL, LONG-TERM GROWTH



317 to 976 million

the number of passengers flying every year
across Europe between 2003 and 2023



+20%

flights operated in Europe
since 2013



+44%

the expected air traffic growth
until 2050

¹ Common Projects are specific implementations of SESAR technologies deemed essential to achieving the goals set out in the European ATM Master Plan. These projects are legally mandated and require synchronised deployment across Europe, serving as critical building blocks toward the Single European Sky vision.

CONCRETE BENEFITS OF SESAR DEPLOYMENT FOR EUROPE

Enhancing airspace capacity, safety, efficiency, and environmental sustainability.

1 Boosting EU competitiveness and economic growth

SDM is contributing to the competitiveness of the European Aviation industry by driving the deployment of innovative technologies, ensuring the EU aviation sector remains on the leading curve of global innovation, and that its major players can expand their international reach. By coordinating the deployment at EU level of innovative solutions to modernise ATM systems, streamline operations and improve efficiency, SDM supports substantial economic advantages for ground and airborne stakeholders, fostering long-term economic growth and job growth. With over 350 cutting-edge projects and counting, SDM is facilitating an improved EU connectivity, enabling citizens and goods to move freely, efficiently, and sustainably across Europe.

2 Prioritising the passenger

SDM coordination activities at EU level led to enhanced passenger experience through improved safety measures, increased capacity, shorter and more direct routes, reduced delays and lower costs, aligning with EU climate objectives and fostering global connectivity. This is critical to boosting tourism and thereby economic growth.

3 Preserving Europe's strategic autonomy and defence capabilities

A digital, innovative, cybersecure, and well-operated Aviation industry is vital to preserve Europe's geopolitical resilience and autonomy, and to increase its defence capacity. Given the role of Air Traffic Management (ATM) systems and the European airspace as core components of EU's critical infrastructure, SESAR deployment activities have explicitly targeted the civil-military dimension of air transport in the last decade: EU funding support was pivotal for the development of technologies which benefit both domains, as well as for the wide-scale adoption of Airspace Management and Advanced Flexible Use of Airspace. This dual approach will remain essential and will require a consistent and EU-harmonised support in terms of available grants to foster innovation and adequate coordination beyond national borders.

4 Reducing Emissions

With air travel set to rise by exponentially, just waiting for the development of revolutionary technologies and the upscaling of SAF production is not a viable option. ATM modernisation offers a 'quick fix' solution to achieve savings in fuel usage and air travel emissions which will prove critical to delivering on the 90% emission reduction target by 2040. CP1 alone has already saved 6.2 million tons of fuel and 19.5 million tons of CO₂.



€16.5 billion

Reduced costs:
€16.5 billion through ATM systems modernisation



19.5 million tons of CO₂

Reduced carbon footprint:
By 2040, CP1 is projected to save 19.5 million tons of CO₂ – equivalent to the annual emissions of close to 3 million EU citizens



3.3 million minutes

Reduced flight time:
3.3 million cumulated minutes saved on flight's average time