

Single sky initiative moves ahead in Europe

Guest columnist Massimo Garbini, Managing Director, SESAR Deployment Manager, explains how the modernization of air traffic management is being implemented in Europe.

Modernizing Air Traffic Management (ATM) is crucial for the sustainability of European aviation and the forecasted increase in air traffic by 2035. The Single European Sky's ATM Research project (SESAR) is one of the most ambitious modernization programs launched by the European Union (EU) contributing to the implementation of the Single European Sky. This modernization impacts all air-related stakeholders and consequently generates benefits for the air cargo industry.

Forecasts

Aviation is a strong driver of economic growth, jobs, trade, and mobility for the EU. It plays a crucial role in the EU economy and reinforces its global leadership position. Therefore the European aviation sector must remain competitive and reap the benefits of a fast-changing and developing global economy. The EU aviation sector directly employs between 1.4 million and 2 million people and



Massimo Garbini:
"The Deployment Program shows our stakeholders which technology to invest in."

Benefits of SESAR deployment

The expected benefits of SESAR deployment are multiple and not only impacting the aviation sector.

- Up to 10% reduction in fuel burn,
- Up to 10% reduction in CO₂ emissions,
- A positive impact on noise and air quality,
- Improved safety,
- Up to 30% reduction in departure delays,
- Up to 6% reduction in flight time,
- Shorter door to door travel time,
- 10 kg in fuel saving per passenger.

overall supports between 4.8 million and 5.5 million jobs. The number of flights will increase from 9.5 million in 2012 to 14.4 million by 2035. At the same time, growth in air traffic in Europe and worldwide needs to be reconciled with maintaining high standards of aviation safety and security, as well as reducing aviation's environmental footprint and contributing to the fight against climate change.

Modernization roadmap

The European ATM Master Plan is the roadmap for driving this European ATM modernization program. It sets out the necessary steps involved for the development and deployment of SESAR solutions with technologies and operational procedures, linking them to the Single European Sky performance objectives and ensuring global inter-operability and consistency with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Global Air Navigation Plan.

The SESAR Deployment Manager (SDM) is responsible for the coordination of the implementation of the EU's Pilot Common Projects, based on SESAR Solutions to be deployed in a synchronized and timely manner across Europe. Therefore it has created the Deployment

Program, which explains how Europe's ATM industry will be organized to fully and timely implement the Pilot Common Project (PCP), a European law covering six ATM functionalities that have to be deployed by EU member states.

SESAR Deployment Manager leads investment plans by civil and military European air navigation service providers, airport operators, airspace users, and the network manager to achieve Europe's ATM infrastructure modernization, as required to ensure a safe and efficient continental air transport system in support of our economy and the creation of jobs.

The Deployment Program translates the priorities defined in the European ATM Master Plan's planning view, and selected to be part of the Pilot Common Project, into a coherent and coordinated project view. The Deployment Program 2016 highlights the most urgent initiatives and activities to be undertaken in order to ensure an effective and synchronized deployment of PCP throughout Europe and to avoid significant gaps in the program's deployment. It will be delivered by SESAR Deployment Manager to the European Commission by September 30, 2016.

Deployment

Today, deployment is a reality in Europe. The return on investment is tangible. There are 84 implementing projects by 45 partners already running in 23 EU member states and also two neighboring states. All this is the true demonstration of Europe's ATM industry's willingness to invest in ATM modernization and meet Single European Sky challenges.

Our main objectives for 2016 are to update the identified gaps in the Pilot Common Project implementation and focus on what remains to be implemented. The Deployment Program will release an early update by June 2016, which will look at what has already been implemented.

We are changing the life and strategy of a lot of our stakeholders in technological investments and now that we have proven that a strong partnership between the European Commission and the industry is the right model to achieve deployment results, we have to keep up to this level of expectation and remain open and transparent with a high focus on timely deployment to assure full PCP deployment together with all stakeholders.