

Press Release

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DFS and Indra move forward in the implementation of the Single European Sky by introducing the next-generation technology for control of upper airspace

The German air navigation service provider DFS Deutsche Flugsicherung and global consulting and technology provider Indra have implemented the next-generation iTEC Centre Automation System (iCAS) in the Karlsruhe control centre for most of the upper airspace above Germany. System tests and the first live operations at night have been successfully completed. Full operational use of the system is planned between November 2017 and February 2018.

As part of a nationwide modernisation programme, iCAS will replace the VAFORIT system, currently in place for upper area control in Karlsruhe. This will be followed by the system's introduction at the German control centres in Bremen, Munich and Langen for lower airspace. It will also be introduced at the Amsterdam centre of the Dutch ANSP LVNL, Germany's system group partner.

iCAS offers a higher level of automation and allows for 4D capabilities, trajectory prediction, flight path conformance monitoring and complete interoperability between control centres in Europe.

Robert Schickling, COO of DFS, said: "The deployment of the iCAS system is a major step towards attaining the objectives set forth by the SESAR programme for the creation of a Single European Sky. With iCAS, we will be able to deliver higher service standards for the users of Europe's skies, we will have improved operational performance with increased capacity gains and cost-efficiency, and less environmental impact of flights. iCAS – the biggest investment and innovation programme at DFS – will replace the heterogeneous ATS systems that evolved over time at our control centres with one common system."

The new system, based on iTEC technology, allows pilots to choose the most direct route, translating into savings of both fuel and time. Its calculation capacity makes



advanced planning of air traffic possible, avoiding conflicts between routes and enabling the management of higher amounts of traffic, more smoothly and more punctually.

This system has been designed together with Indra to promote the introduction of free route airspace, enabling airlines to choose the most convenient journey. Testing performed by DFS and Eurocontrol to calculate the potential benefits derived from introducing these types of flights in Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands have estimated annual savings of 9,000 tonnes of fuel and a reduction of 30,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions in the region.

The implementation of iCAS is framed within the iTEC Alliance which brings together Europe's leading air navigation service providers. With Indra as their technology partner, the Alliance has developed the core components of the iTEC system; a common controller working position as well as a flight data processing system. In addition to the German ANSP DFS, the other iTEC partners are from Spain (ENAIRE), the United Kingdom (UK), the Netherlands (LVNL), and Norway (AVINOR), along with Indra as the technology provider. Lithuania (ORO Navagacija) and Poland (PANSA) will join in March 2017.

Karlsruhe is the second major European control centre to implement iTEC technology, following Prestwick control centre. It started the en-route flight management of all air traffic in the airspace above Scotland and ocean traffic in the North Atlantic area in June of last year.

The iTEC components are expected to be deployed across many of the continent's control centres in the upcoming years and will ultimately manage 31% of Europe's air traffic.

A smarter controller position

As part of its implementation of the iCAS system at the Karlsruhe control centre, Indra has redesigned the work environment for air traffic controllers.

Indra has integrated state-of-the-art technologies for graphic information display and system interaction so that the controller can interact with the system in a more natural way, and will simplify the execution of repetitive tasks, increasing efficiency and facilitating the management of greater amounts of traffic.



The controller working position will include all of the most advanced tools for coordinating and modifying routes, detecting conflicts and linking ground-air data, offering flexibility with regards to the controller's configuration of data to best adapt it to his or her needs.

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DFS Deutsche Flugsicherung GmbH, the German air navigation service provider, is a State-owned company under private law with 5,550 employees as at 31 December 2016. DFS ensures the safe and punctual flow of air traffic over Germany. Around 2,000 air traffic controllers guide up to 10,000 flights in German airspace every day, about three million movements every year. This makes Germany the country with the highest traffic volume in Europe. The company operates control centres in Langen, Bremen, Karlsruhe and Munich as well as control towers at 16 international airports in Germany. The DFS subsidiary, DFS Aviation Services GmbH (DAS), provides air navigation services as well as consultancy services.

About Indra

Indra is one of the main global consulting and technology companies and the technology partner for core business operations of its clients businesses throughout the world. It offers a comprehensive range of proprietary solutions and cutting edge services with a high added value in technology, which adds to a unique culture that is reliable, flexible and adaptable to its client's needs. Indra is a world leader in the development of comprehensive technological solutions in fields such as Defense & Security, Transport & Traffic, Energy & Industry, Telecommunications & Media, Financial Services and Public Administrations & Healthcare. Through its Minsait unit, it provides a response to the challenges of digital transformation. In 2016 it reported revenues of €2,709m, had a workforce of 34,000 professionals, a local presence in 46 countries, and sales operations in more than 140 countries.