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Opening of the Air Traffic Control Tower in Graz Equipped with a Voice Communication System from FREQUENTIS

Yet another highlight in the successful cooperation between Austro Control and Frequentis

The official opening of the air traffic control tower in Graz took place on the 24th of October. The occasion was graced by the presence of many prominent figures and the numerous honourable guests who so kindly accepted the invitation from Austro Control and the Graz Airport. Among other things, the Frequentis speech communication system VCS 3020X was presented in Graz. The system, together with the Aerodrome Data Display (ADD) which was also provided by Frequentis, has provided for frictionless communication during approach and departure as well as directly at the Graz Airport since the end of September.

In 2001, Austro Control, the Austrian Air Traffic Management (ATM) Provider, called for bids for the new tower in Graz. The new tower, with a height of 42 meters and its futuristic design, has become an architectonic symbol of the Graz/Thalerhof Airport.

Absolute performance is demanded of the new speech communication system. The range of functions that were desired, such as integration with the Austrian-wide speech-data network, required the new 3.1 release of the proven speech communication system VCS 3020X from the Viennese high-tech company Frequentis, who delivered the system and brought it into service right on schedule.

A Complete Communication Solution

The VCS 3020X - the main product of the Frequentis VCS range - is a modular voice communication system for mid- to large-size applications. Through the development of dual-line interfaces, both savings in the system costs as well as a reduction in the required space are achieved, making the system also an economically interesting solution.

A further product from the innovative TAPtools (Tower and Airport Tools) assortment from Frequentis supports the air traffic controllers in their work at the Graz control tower: an Aerodrome

Data Display (ADD). ADD was developed in close cooperation with two air traffic controllers from Austro Control and it helps to greatly reduce the stress level of air traffic controllers working in the tower.

Airfield relevant information, such as weather data, wind speeds and current visibility conditions can be called up via ADD at a single user interface in the form of a Touch Panel. A wide range of data from the most diverse information systems are thus combined and presented to the air traffic controller in a clear and concise manner. Thus, the ADD creates a more ergonomic working environment for the air traffic controllers working in the tower.

Linz Airport Equipped with Same System

Complementary to the tower in Graz, Linz will also be equipped with the same system - VCS 3020X incl. ADD - to replace the old tower system at the Linz Airport as well. The VCS system should be brought into service at the beginning of 2003. The ADD has been successfully in service for many months now.

Both Graz as well as Linz will be integrated into the Austrian-wide speech-data network. The networking will take place via the Frequentis VCX network node, which is capable of combining various and up until now separate communication systems in a single network.

With the opening of the Graz Airport control tower, yet another project carried out in cooperation between Austro Control and Frequentis - the long standing cooperation between Austro Control and Frequentis began back in 1955 while equipping the first Austrian air traffic control center in Vienna - has come to a successful close.

About Austro Control

AUSTRO CONTROL is responsible for the air traffic control and air traffic safety within the Austrian airspace. With approximately 1,000 employees (approx. 300 of which are fully trained air traffic controllers), AUSTRO CONTROL covers all of the demands of modern air traffic control. In addition to monitoring services, the duties of ACG include among other things aviation information services, the set up of air traffic control systems, aviation weather services, inspection of the operational worthiness of aviation vehicles, search and rescue services, and the authorisation of flights into, out of, or through Austrian airspace. The turnover for 2001 amounted to approx. EUR 166 million. The ACG supervisory board consists of the General Director Dr. Christoph Baubin, who is responsible for commercial matters, personnel and aviation, as well as Mag. Johann Zemsky, who is responsible for air traffic management.

About Frequentis

For Background Information about Frequentis please see www.frequentis.com.