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EAD (European AIS-Database) brings cost savings of over 50 Million Euro for air traffic control

An EAD-feasibility study shows that the European efforts involved in the handling of NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) can be reduced dramatically. Operational savings as well as IT savings bring about 50 Million Euro per year.

The European AIS Database is the only system in the world that facilitates the cross-national management of Aeronautical Information Systems data (AIS-data). With the implementation of EAD a most important step towards a single European sky has been made. After the successful technological development and implementation – which the Austrian high-tech company Frequentis was responsible for – the database successfully went operational in June 2003.

EAD reduces costs and saves time

Since then all member states have access to standardised and high-quality data, which saves time and reduces cost. How can this cost savings be achieved?

Two aspects have to be considered – on the one hand the operational cost savings, on the other hand economisation of IT-investments.

In 1993 an "EAD Feasibility Study" for EUROCONTROL already yielded an astonishing figure: as soon as all member states will have completed their migration to the system, the European efforts for the handling of NOTAM could be reduced by 60-80%. This can be explained easily. With EAD the NOTAM processing (every ECAC/EUROCONTROL member state received all NOTAMS worldwide, for briefing they had to process every single NOTAM to make it confirm to the local quality procedures) has to be carried out only once instead of 42 times, once by every member state. This means that an operational savings of about 15 Million Euro per year can be attained.

On the other EAD brings economisation of IT-investments. With EAD, the clients' local stand-alone AIS-system solution becomes superfluous. When calculating the one-time IT-related costs and the operational IT-related costs, Frequentis studies show that EAD may help to avoid about EUR 38 Million in IT-related costs for the ECAC-member states.

In total, by migrating to the EAD-service model, the ECAC/EUROCONTROL member states may save more than EUR 50 millions per year.

Besides all cost savings factors, the quality of available data has significantly improved with the introduction of the EAD-service, because data is now consolidated on a European rather than on a state level.

"The main challenges of today's Air Traffic Management are the need for integrating the airspace, enhancing safety and reducing costs. EAD is a shining example of how innovative information solutions can support Air Navigation Service Providers in coping with current and future challenges", states Hannes Bardach, Managing Director Frequentis.

About Frequentis

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