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FREQUENTIS and Rheinmetall Defence jointly launch smartVISION

This innovative visualization concept, supporting the implementation of Remote Towers and Contingency Solutions, has undergone successful trials conducted together with the DFS (Deutsche Flugsicherung GmbH) at Dresden Airport in Germany.

Frequentis and Rheinmetall Defence have jointly developed a new, alternative method for displaying the classical “out of the window” view of the environment surrounding an airport tower. This new solution has been named “smartVISION”. Frequentis expertise in ATM (Air Traffic Management) has been successfully combined with the visual surveillance know-how of Rheinmetall Defence to provide a mature and proven product baseline for this solution.

To overcome the typical problems facing conventional cameras, such as sunlight reflections, poor contrast and bad light conditions, the smartVISION solution offers a completely new visualization approach based on advanced thermal camera technology and video-based surveillance and tracking functionality.

The system generates a full 360 degree panorama view provided by cameras that are especially sensitive to infrared light. This resulting panorama presentation covers the complete ground and terminal areas surrounding the tower and also facilitates the automatic detection and tracking of aircraft, vehicles, persons and wildlife via verification sensors (Pan Tilt Zoom Cameras). Surveillance data plus flight and other support information can be directly integrated into the panorama presentation. This significantly improves overall situation awareness and minimizes head-down time.

Trials have taken place at Dresden Airport on a test system consisting of cameras and a controller working position integrating visualization with other controller tools. DFS controllers have evaluated the capabilities of smartVISION within the context of their own Remote Tower Strategy and were very satisfied. Compared to the conventional “out of the window” tower view the infrared presentation, together with its advanced surveillance and tracking capabilities, offers distinct advantages in poor weather situations and during the night. The compact layout of the controller working position was highly appreciated and the solution shows great potential for expanded use within a multi-tower concept.

About Rheinmetall Defence

Rheinmetall AG is a financially strong, internationally successful player in the markets for automotive components and defence equipment. The groups' Defence sector is Europe's foremost supplier of army technology and a longstanding partner of the armed forces. Rheinmetall Defence products set the global standard for excellence in a wide array of disciplines: from vehicle, force protection and weapon systems to infantry equipment and air defence, and from network-enabled warfare capabilities to electro-optics and simulation technology. Providing friendly forces with the best-possible protection - that is our mission.

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About DFS Deutsche Flugsicherung GmbH

DFS Deutsche Flugsicherung GmbH, the German air navigation service provider, is a State-owned company under private law and has 6,000 employees. DFS ensures the safe and punctual flow of air traffic over Germany. Staff coordinate up to 10,000 aircraft movements in German airspace every day, and about three million movements every year. This makes Germany the country with the highest traffic volume in Europe. DFS operates control centres in Langen, Bremen, Karlsruhe and Munich. In addition, DFS is represented in the Eurocontrol Centre in Maastricht, the Netherlands, and in the control towers of the 16 international German airports. DFS provides training and consultancy services around the world and develops and sells air traffic management systems. The company's portfolio also comprises flight-relevant data, aeronautical publications and aeronautical information services. DFS has the following business units: Control Centre, Tower, Aeronautical Solutions and Aeronautical Information Management.

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About Frequentis

Frequentis AG is an international supplier of communication and information systems in two business segments: Air Traffic Management (civil and military) and Public Safety & Transport (police, fire and ambulance services; inland and maritime shipping; rail). Fail-safe connectivity, connection set-up in milliseconds and user-friendly design are core elements of Frequentis products.

For more information, please visit www.frequentis.com

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