
FREQUENTIS UTM system to optimise drone operations for Norwegian offshore platforms

FREQUENTIS to extend UTM system for Avinor ANS enabling safe and efficient drone use around offshore platforms

Avinor ANS, Norwegian Air Navigation Services, has contracted Frequentis to extend its existing unmanned traffic management (UTM) system to enable safe and efficient UTM service provision around offshore platforms in the Norwegian North Sea. The contract, within a framework agreement between Frequentis and Avinor, will allow UTM service provision by an authorised third party UTM operator to supervise and manage drone traffic around their key infrastructure assets sustainably.

The extension of Avinor's UTM system to support other industries highlights the importance of a secure, safe and efficient UTM data exchange based on Frequentis' MosaiX SWIM platform as Flight Information Management System (FIMS). Avinor's UTM infrastructure is unlocking the potential of full autonomous operations for Norwegian offshore industries. Autonomous Remote Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) operations, coupled with seamless UTM/ATM integration, will more sustainably serve the offshore industry, contributing to lower CO2 emissions as well as enhancing safety and efficiency.

"We are proud to have worked with Frequentis to implement the first Nordic UTM system and even prouder that it now allows the addition of third-party services, enabling drone related business," says Axel Knutsen, Vice President UTM, Avinor ANS.

Avinor has been working with Frequentis since 2020 on the implementation of a nationwide UTM system for 17 airport towers across Norway, testing it in a real-world environment at two airport towers and since deploying the remote, cloud-based system to all 17 airport towers. The project fully supports Norway's future drone strategy and in 2021 also won an ATM Magazine award for ATM/UTM integration.

"When we began this UTM project with Avinor we promised a technically advanced solution able to scale and this is exactly what we are proving with this system extension, supporting, not only the 18 nationwide airports but now also, authorised UTM service provision in a third-party airspace where helicopter flights are common. Providing an infrastructure as a service that allows the safe integration of both crewed and uncrewed aerial vehicles into Norwegian airspace is the goal we are working on together with Avinor, and the addition of the offshore industry further highlights Avinor as an innovative

and safety focused service provider,” says Guenter Graf, Frequentis Vice President New Business Development.

By providing MosaiX SWIM as the FIMS, or Common Information Service Function (CIS), Frequentis underlines its capability to provide a cloud based UTM infrastructure as a service to clients. The UTM extension for Avinor ANS is set to go live in summer 2022, ready for use by Equinor, an international energy company committed renewables and low-carbon solutions.

“Equinor initiated a project on drone-based logistics four years ago. We have had close cooperation with Avinor throughout the project and are pleased to see that UTM now is becoming a reality. This has been a joint effort, and will be an enabler for Equinor, as we continue to mature and prepare for safe and efficient operations with drones in the North Sea,” says Espen Wanvik, Project Leader for Logistical Drones in Equinor.

For more information reach out to the team at World ATM Congress in Madrid, June 21-23, booth 526.

About FREQUENTIS

Frequentis is a global supplier of communication and information systems for control centres with safety-critical tasks. The listed family-run company develops and markets its “control centre solutions” in the Air Traffic Management segment (civil and military air traffic control, air defence) and the Public Safety & Transport segment (police, fire brigades, emergency rescue services, shipping, railways). With a market share of 30%, Frequentis is the world market leader in voice communication systems for air traffic control. Frequentis is also the global leader in aeronautical information management and aeronautical message handling systems.

As a global player with about 2,150 employees, Frequentis has a global network of companies in more than 50 countries. Its head office is in Vienna, Austria. Frequentis’ products, services, and solutions are used at more than 40,000 operator working positions in around 150 countries. Shares in Frequentis are traded on the Vienna and Frankfurt stock exchanges; ISIN: ATFREQUENT09, WKN: A2PHG5. In 2021, revenues were EUR 333.5 million and EBIT was EUR 29.0 million.

Wherever Frequentis’ systems are used, safety-critical operators can confidently bear responsibility for the safety of other people and goods. The company also works towards a more sustainable future through its air traffic optimisation solutions.

For more information, please visit www.frequentis.com.

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