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FAA Approval for Digital Tower Operations Opens New Era for U.S. Airports and Communities

Frequentis becomes first Digital Tower system to receive FAA System Design Approval, establishing a validated pathway for modernisation across the U.S. National Airspace System

- **First approved design baseline for Digital Tower technology in the United States**
- **Milestone provides airports with a clear pathway to modernise tower operations with enhanced visibility, situational awareness, and resilience**
- **Digital Tower technology makes air traffic control services accessible to smaller and regional airports, benefiting communities**

Airports across the United States now have a new pathway to modernise air traffic control operations following a landmark decision by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

The FAA granted System Design Approval (SDA) to the Frequentis Digital Tower system, making it the first to achieve this milestone for use in the U.S. National Airspace System (NAS). Frequentis partnered with RTX Corporation during the SDA process and worked closely with the FAA to deliver a safe, reliable system ready for operational use. The approval confirms that the Frequentis Digital Tower solution has met all applicable FAA requirements for safety, human factors, visual and system performance, establishing an FAA-approved design baseline for future Digital Tower deployments.

For airports and the communities they serve, the significance extends well beyond the technology itself. Many smaller and regional airports are important engines of local and regional economies, supporting business aviation, workforce development, flight training, emergency and medical operations, tourism, logistics, and access to national markets. Yet the cost and complexity of constructing and maintaining a conventional air traffic control tower can make tower services difficult to achieve at some airports.

Digital Tower technology offers an alternative

Using advanced cameras, sensors, and high-resolution displays, Digital Towers provide controllers with a comprehensive visual picture of an airport and its operations without requiring them to work from a conventional tower cab. The technology enhances visibility and situational awareness, strengthens operational resilience, and provides greater flexibility in how air traffic services are delivered, including if conventional facilities are disrupted.

“This approval represents a transformational moment that gives U.S. airports and communities another way to think about the future of their airport,” said Dieter Eier, President of Frequentis USA. “For many smaller and regional airports, building a conventional tower requires significant time and capital. Digital Tower technology enhances the tools available to controllers, strengthens airport operations, and makes modern air traffic services achievable in places where they may not have been before.”

“We are extremely proud that Frequentis is the first company to reach this milestone with the FAA, but also what it will unlock for American aviation. Airports now have an FAA-approved design baseline and a clearer pathway for moving from concept toward implementation.”

What this means for U.S. airports

Digital Tower technology is widely operational internationally, but until now, airports in the U.S. considering it have faced significant uncertainty around system design validation and regulatory acceptance. The SDA establishes a validated design framework, providing airport sponsors with greater predictability as they evaluate future investments.

The implications are especially important for regional airports seeking to strengthen their role in local economic development. Modern air traffic services can support an airport’s ability to safely accommodate increasingly complex operations, attract aviation-related activity, support employers and workforce development, and prepare for future growth. The FAA’s approval now establishes an important foundation for implementing the technology within the United States.

For more information, see the FAA news release.

About FREQUENTIS

Frequentis stands for a safer world. Our solutions are used in our customers’ command and control centres to help them make the world safer.

Frequentis is a world leader in high-tech solutions for Air Traffic Management, supporting both civil and military air traffic control organisations, as well as Public Safety and Transport, where police, emergency rescue services, fire brigades, railways, coastguards, and port authorities rely on our extensive portfolio.

Frequentis operates globally, with solutions deployed in around 150 countries and a workforce of about 2,900 employees.

For more than 25 years in the USA, Frequentis has been helping protect the safety, security, and resilience of critical infrastructure. Headquartered in Maryland and trusted by federal, state, and local agencies across the country, we combine American innovation with global expertise to deliver mission-critical solutions that strengthen national readiness, modernise operations, and help build a safer future for all.

For more information, please visit www.frequentis.com

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