

Vienna, February 2016

Moving Toward SESAR Virtual Centres

A demonstration of the feasibility of virtualisation within air traffic management

SESAR members demonstrated the first multi-vendor collaboration in compliance with the SESAR Virtual Centre concept on 4 February 2016 at several European sites and the Frequentis headquarters in Vienna. The demonstration is an important milestone in air traffic management modernisation since it marks progress towards greater service orientation, interoperability, service provider independence and remote service provision.

The demonstration, which was organised by the project partners¹ EUROCONTROL, NATS, skyguide in cooperation with SkySoft-ATM and Frequentis, presented a number of open standard service interfaces in various multi-vendor scenarios. Services including surveillance, correlation, flight data distribution, flight data management, coordination and transfer were demonstrated through remotely-connected sites located in Brétigny (EUROCONTROL), Fareham (NATS) and Geneva (skyguide), which illustrated how separate sites will work collaboratively across different flight sectors.

The demonstration shows the feasibility of the SESAR Virtual Centre concept, meaning the decoupling of the ATM data service providers (ADSPs) from the air traffic service units (ATSUs) through open and standardised service interfaces. The services provided by ADSPs cover all the data needed by ATSUs (including ATM and voice data) for en-route, approach and tower domains, depending on the ATSUs. In addition, the demonstration showed how collaboration is possible on a single platform using services based on system-wide information management (SWIM) applications. The main focus is on the controller working position itself, with Frequentis acting as an access point and broker.

This SESAR Virtual Centre concept improves the common provision of ATM functionalities in a manner that increases flexibility to organise operations between ATSUs and enables multiple ATSUs to be perceived as a single system from an airspace user's perspective. These improvements enable an overall cost efficiency of the system.

¹ SESAR Project B04.04 and Demo 7

“To be involved in the world-first demonstration of a ‘virtual centre’ is very exciting. While there is still work to do before this concept could become operational, the benefits to our customers of cross-border service provision around greater flexibility and resilience are obvious”, said Simon Daykin, NATS Chief Architect.

“To create real benefits for their customers, European Air Navigation Services need to foster a much needed, technology-driven paradigm shift. The Air Traffic Service Units have to support common operational requirements, capabilities of operating service delegation, a performance-driven approach and an enhanced cooperation among service providers. With such programmes and milestones we are progressing in the right direction”, Philippe Chauffoureaux at skyguide summed up.

“This demonstration is setting the target for future global, interoperable and high-performing ATM to deliver safe, cost-efficient and environmentally responsible operations, systems and services”, Michael Holzbauer, Director of European ATM Programs at Frequentis, concluded.

Caption: SESAR Project B04.04 and Demo 7 at Frequentis

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About FREQUENTIS

Frequentis is an Austrian based international supplier of communication and information systems for control centres with safety-critical tasks. These control centre solutions are developed and distributed by Frequentis in the business segments Air Traffic Management (civil and military air traffic control, and air defence) and Public Safety & Transport (police, fire and rescue services, emergency medical services, vessel traffic and railways). Frequentis maintains a worldwide network of subsidiaries and local representatives in more than 50 countries. The company's products and solutions are behind more than 25,000 operator positions in over 120 countries. With this extensive portfolio, Frequentis is the leading provider of voice communication systems... all making our world a safer place every day!

For more information, please visit www.frequentis.com

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About SESAR

As the technological pillar of the Single European Sky initiative, SESAR aims to modernise and harmonise air traffic management in Europe. The SESAR Joint Undertaking (SESAR JU) was established in 2007 as a public-private partnership to support this endeavour. It does so by pooling the knowledge and resources of the entire ATM community in order to define, research, develop and validate innovative technological and operational solutions. The SJU is also responsible for the execution of the European ATM Master Plan. Founded by the European Union and Eurocontrol, the SESAR JU currently has 15 members, who together with their partners and affiliate associations represent over 80 companies working in Europe and beyond. The SESAR JU also works closely with staff associations, regulators, airport operators and the scientific community.

For more information, please visit www.sesarju.eu

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About skyguide

Skyguide is the Swiss ANS provider for civil and military air traffic. With its 1'600 staff at 14 sites in Switzerland, skyguide controls some 1.2 million IFR flights per year in Swiss and delegated airspaces in Austria, France, Germany and Italy. Skyguide is a member of FABEC.

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SkySoft-ATM is a skyguide subsidiary active in design and implementation of ATM systems.

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