

## France and Switzerland adopt identical system for exchanging aeronautical information

**Paris, Geneva, May 14, 2008.** Skyguide, Switzerland's air navigation service provider and the Direction des Services de la Navigation Aérienne (DSNA), its counterpart in France, are to both acquire the same new-generation system for transmitting and receiving aeronautical information. The partners have decided to simultaneously adopt the new MESANGE system in autumn 2009 in view of the steady growth in air traffic volumes and associated communications. MESANGE has been developed by Comsoft, the Germany-based company which enjoys a high reputation for its products within the air navigation services community.

In deciding to simultaneously acquire this system, skyguide and the DSNA are further cementing their already-strong relations. And the resulting collaboration will further promote the growing international collaboration within the air navigation services community.

### Growing data flows

The new MESANGE system is able to handle messages on the Aeronautical Fixed Telecommunication Network (AFTN) using the new international air traffic service message handling system (AHMS) protocol defined by ICAO and Eurocontrol. MESANGE will thus be able to maintain AHMS communications between France and Switzerland on the one hand and most European systems on the other, in Germany, Spain, the UK and Austria and at Eurocontrol's Brussels-based Central Flow Management Unit.

While it fully complies with all standard specifications, the MESANGE solution devised by Comsoft will require certain modifications to integrate it into skyguide's and the DSNA's existing technical environments. But the growing employment of the new system both in Europe and farther afield will enable MESANGE to be further developed and refined, with resulting benefits for all concerned.

Skyguide and the DSNA have worked together on drawing up a product specification, evaluating the candidate products and selecting their definitive provider. The close collaboration has not only enabled the partners to make optimum use of their resources; it has also allowed them to exchange their technical, commercial and project management expertise. And the joint approach has also permitted the partners to secure the new product on more advantageous terms.

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The DSNA (Direction des Services de la Navigation Aérienne) is France's provider of air navigation services. The DSNA comprises all the operational, technical and administrative organisations which contribute to the provision of French air navigation services both in France and overseas. Under the aegis of its general management, the DSNA's activities are divided between two departments: Operations, which is home to all en-route, approach and aerodrome control activities, and Technical & Innovation, which is concerned with studies and applied research, operational systems development and the procurement of technical equipment. The DSNA operates five area control centres and at 85 airports, and handled 2 916 404 IFR flights last year (a 5.8% increase on 2006). The DSNA had a total of 7 783 management, operational, technical and administrative staff at the beginning of 2008.

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Skyguide is responsible for providing air navigation services within Swiss airspace and in the airspace of certain adjoining regions in neighbouring countries. The company guides the civil and military aircraft entrusted to its care – almost 3 400 flights a day or over 1.23 million a year – through some of the busiest and most complex airspace in Europe. Skyguide is a non-profit limited company which has its head office in Geneva. The majority of its shares are held by the Swiss Confederation. The company generates annual operating revenue of over CHF 369 million and employs some 1 400 people at 14 locations in Switzerland.

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