

## **Skyguide Training Center accredited as a professional college – New federal diploma for air traffic controllers**

**Geneva, 16 December 2009.** The Federal Office of Professional Education and Technology OPET has accredited the Skyguide Training Center, the only institution for the training of air traffic controllers in Switzerland, as a professional college. The professional college federal diploma means that air traffic controllers will, in future, have an accredited professional training qualification and thus access to a wider spectrum of further education.

### **Inspected by independent experts**

The acceptance in November 2006 of the framework training plan developed by skyguide was followed by accreditation of the training programme for air traffic controllers by OPET. Over the last three years, a team of independent experts commissioned by OPET has investigated whether the training programme for air traffic controllers provided by the Skyguide Training Center meets the standards of a professional college. This has been confirmed by the accreditation.

### **Greater flexibility in the professional training system**

A licence from the Federal Office for Civil Aviation (FOCA) is still required in order to practice as an air traffic controller. The professional college federal diploma will provide air traffic controllers with greater flexibility within the professional education system. "We are very pleased by the accreditation. It confirms the high standards that the Skyguide Training Center applies in its training", said Fritz Messerli, head of training for skyguide. With the greater mobility in the professional training system, the professional college diploma also represents a security for the future, for example in a case where an air traffic controller's licence is lost for health or other reasons and the profession can no longer be carried on. The first professional college federal diplomas will be awarded to young air traffic controllers in April 2010.

Further information on training as an air traffic controller can be found under:  
[http://www.skyguide.ch/en/Jobs/Training/Job\\_Profile/](http://www.skyguide.ch/en/Jobs/Training/Job_Profile/)

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Skyguide is responsible for the provision of air navigation services in Switzerland and parts of neighbouring foreign airspace. Skyguide guides around 3400 civil and military aircraft each day or 1.24 million a year through one of the most complex airspaces with the highest traffic density in Europe. It is a non-profit making joint stock company in the majority ownership of the Confederation and its headquarters are in Geneva. skyguide has annual sales of more than CHF 372 million and employs 1400 people at 14 locations in Switzerland. In co-operation with the air navigation organisations in Belgium, Germany, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, skyguide is a member of the FABEC initiative for the creation of a shared block of airspace. The objective of the initiative is to increase the efficiency of air navigation systems in Central Europe.

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